



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

## June 2015

### S3 FOOD SYMPOSIUM HUGE SUCCESS

The Environmental Management Department hosted a successful S3 Food Symposium on May 13th-15th. The conference focused on some of the most critical food safety, security and sustainability issues affecting public health today. Environmental Health (EH) Division Chief, John Rogers, spearheaded the event enlisting nationally recognized subject matter experts to speak on emerging topics, such as antibiotic use in livestock, sugar-sweetened beverage warning labels, food insecurity and its effect on chronic disease and the looming task of the world feeding 9 billion people.

food safety, food sustainability and food security. A few notable participants included Michael Dimock, President of Roots of Change, Dr. Robert Tauxe, CDC Deputy Director of the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, Amber Stott, Founder and Executive Director of the California Food Literacy Center and nationally recognized foodborne illness litigation attorney William Marler.



EH Chief John Rogers

The conference provided a dynamic blend of local and national educators, government leaders and academia, and was a tremendous contributor to the continued progress of food safety sustainability and security.

- County Board of Supervisors**
- Phil Serna, 1st District
  - Patrick Kennedy, 2nd District
  - Susan Peters, 3rd District
  - Roberta MacGlashan, 4th District
  - Don Nottoli, 5th District
  - Bradley Hudson, County Executive
  - Paul G. Lake, Chief Deputy County Executive, Countywide Services
  - Val F. Siebal, Director, Environmental Management Department



The three day event was jump started with pre-conference events that included up close tours of the UC Davis Biodigester, which converts food waste to



energy and the Full Belly Farm which utilizes sustainable farming and composting practices.

Sacramento County Board Supervisor Phil Serna gave opening remarks that preceded Keynote Speaker Katlin Yarnall. Yarnall presented attendees with global photos and facts that extended far beyond the Sacramento region, to expose what food production and access looks like in regions and countries challenged by lack of economic wealth, prosperity and resources.

The conference then led into an impressive cadre of speakers that were divided into three tracks. Each session highlighted one of the different aspects of the S3 conference theme:

Environmental Specialist Liz Olson summarized it this way:

"I was introduced to so many people and topics that are parallel to the mission of Environmental Health...the impact we can all have on our community and our earth is endless. I walked away feeling empowered to be part of the solution, knowing even one person can make an impact on food safety, security, and sustainability."

## California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association Training

Supervising Environmental Specialist John Elkins and Robert Duncan and Environmental Specialists Heather Tanner and Justin Ross attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA) Training Conference in Shell Beach, California April 14 – 17, 2015. Investigating and mitigating crime scenes that involve hazardous materials requires joint cooperation and coordination of environmental crime investigations conducted by enforcement and administrative agencies. CHMIA members include Peace Officers, Public Health Officers, Environmental Health Officers/Specialist, Hazardous Materials Specialists of a Public Health or Environmental Health Agency or Fire Department, Prosecuting Attorney's engaged in environmental crimes prosecution, and water or air pollution control agencies.

This year's annual conference included presentations on Analytical Data Approach to Criminal Investigations,

Bakken Crude & Oil Transportation by Rail into California, Social Media for the Investigator, Advanced HazMat IQ, P-Listed Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals, Retail Waste Aquatic Toxicity Testing, and several recent environmental crime case studies. Supervising Environmental Specialist John Elkins co-presented with Jerry Apodaca, Sacramento City Fire Department and Alan Ito, California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) on a case study involving the July 2011 hazardous waste trailer fire and site remediation in Sacramento, CA.

The 2011 trailer fire presented unique challenges in the containment and mitigation of toxic substances. The first priority was determining what hazardous materials and wastes were burning and reacting in the trailer and what toxic wastes were leaking out. The hazardous waste manifest detailing the contents of the trailer were inside the back of the trailer, contaminated by the hazardous waste and

unreadable. Another major challenge was containing and cleaning up the contaminated fire suppression runoff. Thousands of gallons of water were used to extinguish the fire. The black, viscous material left over from the fire



2011 Hazardous Waste Trailer Fire

fight covered the property and ran off into the storm drain system as well.

The conference sessions addressed some significant current environmental issues and EMD staff brought back relevant regulatory information that will decidedly benefit the department.

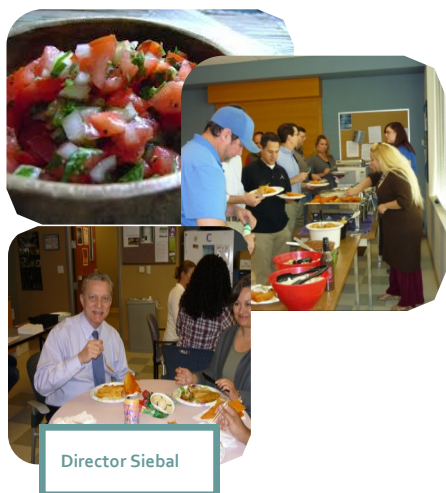
## Cross Connection Portal Award

The Environmental Management Department (EMD) received the **2015 Public Technology Institute's Solutions Significant Achievement Award** for its Cross Connection Portal Project. This annual award recognizes government agencies that have utilized technology to solve problems, improve customer service and internal operations and reduce costs. EMD regulates approximately 15,000 cross connection backflow prevention assemblies on behalf of several public water suppliers operating in the county.



These assemblies protect public drinking water from contamination due to backflow from irrigation pipes or other non potable water during pressure failure or a burst water main. The assemblies are inspected and tested annually by certified assembly testers who then submit the results to EMD. The portal allows the reports to be submitted, fees paid and registrations completed electronically, 24 hours a day. Since being launched in 2012 the portal has saved EMD 3,300 staff hours, 60,000 pieces of printed paper, and \$6,000 annually, which translates into 9 trees and 7,800 gallons of water every year.



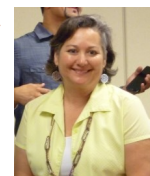


## Fundraising Team Fiesta Day

Each May the fundraising team puts on a Fiesta Day lunch with full plates of Mexican cuisine, vegetarian tamales made by Mary Ellen Oetzel and festive table decorations. Proceeds are used to purchase items for all staff use such as the Keurig machine and the toaster oven in the break room. Thanks to all members of the team for their hard work in making these events a success and fostering community in the workplace.

## Aida Rubio Retires After 20 of Service with Sacramento County

Environmental Specialist Aida Rubio retired this month after 20 years of service with Sacramento County. Aida graduated from UC Berkeley and started her career in Contra Costa County. She joined Sacramento County Environmental Health in 1995 and eagerly dove into plan review and field inspections. Aida was accomplished in building rapport with the managers of the facilities she inspected and known for going the extra mile in working with them to accomplish compliance. Aida is writing up her bucket list for the next phase of life but says her first day off will be spent relaxing at home. EMD will miss you and wishes you the very best in the years ahead.



## You Moving More?

EMD received their donated pedometers and there's a competitive energy circulating amongst wearers. Director Siebal reports that his step range averages 3000 per work day.



Jill Koehn prefers to walk the routes calculated by John Moehring pictured in May's newsletter, making the most of the fresh



air and tree canopies that Mather offers.



If you would like to have a pedometer for tracking your steps, please see Christina Menefee on the 2nd floor of EMD.

### Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

The Environmental Management Department offered 2 Hazardous Material Plan Portal Workshops during May, 2015. There were 7 individuals that attended these workshops. During the workshops, EMD staff provided regulated businesses an overview of the electronic reporting process and also assisted each person with the process of submitting their Hazardous Waste Plans electronically. Hazardous Waste Plans are mandated by the California Environmental Protection Agency to be electronically submitted, effective January 1, 2013. EMD continues to assist consumers who need instruction filing their plans electronically.

### Food Safety Education Classes

There were 6 onsite and 2 off site Food Safety Education classes conducted in April 2015, with a total of 102 participants representing 22 facilities. Three classes were conducted in English, 2 in Spanish, 1 in Cantonese, 1 in Korean and 1 in Vietnamese.

EC Division offered two **Underground Storage Tank Workshops** in April. During the workshops, EMD staff assisted 6 people representing 6 businesses in submitting their Underground Storage Tank forms electronically through either the EMD web portal or the California Environmental Reporting System.

## HEAT EXHAUSTION...TAKE CARE

According to the CDC, workers who are exposed to extreme heat or work in hot environments may be at risk of heat stroke or heat exhaustion. Heat can also increase the risk of injuries in workers as it may result in sweaty palms, fogged-up safety glasses, and dizziness.

Outdoor workers are considered at risk for heat stroke or heat exhaustion. Those workers who are 65 years of age or older, overweight, have heart disease or high blood pressure, or take medications are at greater risk.

Prevention of heat stress in workers is important. Employers should provide training to workers so they understand what heat stress is, how it affects their health and safety, and how it can be prevented.

### Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related disorder. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature: the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. When heat stroke occurs, the body temperature can rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.

#### Symptoms of heat stroke include:

- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- Hallucinations
- Chills
- Throbbing headache
- High body temperature
- Confusion/dizziness
- Slurred speech

#### Take the following steps to treat a worker with heat stroke:

- Call 911 and notify their supervisor.
- Move the sick worker to a cool shaded area.
- Cool the worker using methods such as:
  - ◊ Soaking their clothes with water.
  - ◊ Spraying, sponging, or showering them with

water

- ◊ Fanning their body.

### Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through excessive sweating. Workers most prone to heat exhaustion are those that are elderly, have high blood pressure, and those working in a hot environment.

#### Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Heavy sweating
- Extreme weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness, confusion
- Nausea
- Clammy, moist skin
- Pale or flushed complexion
- Muscle cramps
- Slightly elevated body temperature
- Fast and shallow breathing

#### Treat a worker suffering from heat exhaustion with the following:

- Have them rest in a cool, shaded or air-conditioned area.
- Have them drink plenty of water or other cool, non-alcoholic beverages.
- Have them take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.



Citation: <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/TOPICS/HEATSTRESS/>

<b>By the Numbers May 2015</b>	
	<b>May-15</b>
<b>Food Facility Placards Issued</b>	
A. Green – Pass	831
C. Red – Closed	11
B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	52
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>894</b>
Above Ground Storage Tank	5
Body Art	77
Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1204
Farm Labor Camps	3
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	116
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	18
Liquid Waste	21
Medical Waste	4
Small Water Systems	7
Wells	114
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	94
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	90
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	41
Underground Storage Tank Removal, Installations, Upgrades, Repairs	6
Storm Water Non Food Facility	59
Waste Tire	86
Tobacco Retailer	17
Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling	3
Refuse Vehicle Inspections/	0
Septic Tank Pumper Trucks	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2036</b>
<b>Investigations</b>	
Body Art	11
Consumer Complaints	83
Food Borne Illness	19
Incident Response	32
Solid Waste	6
Storm Water	4
Waste Tire	0
Childhood Lead	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>	
Food Safety Education (Food School)	102
Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	7
“How To Get A Green Placard For Food Inspection” Workshop Online also.	
Underground Storage Forms Workshop	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</b>	
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	0
Body Art	6
Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells	131
Food Facilities	162
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	39
Underground Storage Tanks Plans and Permit Reviews	9
Land Use	21
Local Oversight Program	0
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	2541
<b>Total</b>	<b>2957</b>
<b>Imaging</b>	
Document Pages Imaged	20989