

Environmental Management Department

EMD NEWS & NOTES

Summer 2011 Edition

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL/ PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

In this edition, more kudos to EMD staff and managers for demonstrating that innovation and hard work is often recognized and is key to maintaining environmental health protection.

As any inspector will tell you, it's not always easy to convince people to do the right thing when there is a cost involved. Whether it's cleaning up a contaminated property, closing a hand dug well, or implementing a new California State Law, it takes a diplomatic discussion in order for folks to understand the positive side to what they are required to do. EMD managers and staff do a great job of assisting people in understanding the requirements and importance of setting a level playing field. Sometimes it is a little easier knowing that everyone is playing by the same rules.



Val F. Siebal, Director

I have no doubt that the future holds continued recognition for the excellent work provided by EMD staff to the citizens of Sacramento County.

HEATHER TANNER RECEIVES CHMIA AWARD

Environmental Specialist (ES) Heather Tanner was presented with a "Lifetime Member Award" at the Annual CHMIA (California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association) Conference. Heather was recognized for her dedication and distinguished service to CHMIA. Heather served as Sacramento Area Director in 2007 and as CHMIA Vice President in 2009. Heather continues to work tirelessly on CHMIA's Annual Continuing Challenge Workshop and has hosted several CHMIA-sponsored training events in the Sacramento area.



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



EMD was awarded the 2011 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award for our Abandoned Well Program. The Award recognizes innovative programs that modernize and streamline county government and increase services to its citizens.

In November 2009, EMD implemented this program to identify and properly close abandoned, unused or

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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inoperable water wells. Such wells can be conduits for pollutants to reach groundwater. Many older, hand dug wells and open casings pose a physical falling-in hazard for animals and humans. After extensive outreach, EMD field staff identified more than 400 abandoned wells in the county. Other EMD activities performed included development of field and office protocols, procedures and training, an abandoned well database management system, ongoing oversight of abandoned well inactivation, destruction and restoration. The program was funded with proceeds from a settlement reached with Shell Oil Company for underground storage tank violations throughout the state.

Environmental Compliance Division staff involved in the program include: Elise Rothschild, Chief; Marie Woodin, Deputy Chief; Supervising ES Barry Marcus; ESs Derek Jacks, Mary Ellen Oetzel, David Steele, David Von Aspern, Patrice Webb, Susan Williams and Sharon Zimmerman; and Environmental Compliance Technicians Margie Chatwood and Lisa Christy.

GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS

Food trends are constantly changing and one of the newest trends to hit the Sacramento area is gourmet food served by mobile food facilities (MFF) or what we also know as Gourmet Food Trucks. You may have seen these brightly colored cooking trucks on TV and may begin seeing them in Sacramento County selling their food to anxiously awaiting fans or patrons. The interest in this new concept of food vending has even amounted to the first Sacramento Mobile Food Festival which was held in Fremont Park in April with over 20 food vendors from Sacramento to the Bay Area. EMD food inspectors attended the event to ensure food compliance.

The Environmental Management Department issues health permits to these vehicles to sell food to the public and also inspects them for compliance with health and safety issues. Aside from food safety considerations, local government agencies are concerned about vehicles that remain parked in one location for longer than 30 minutes due to requirements of a City of Sacramento ordinance. This time limit has brought the attention of these trucks even closer to the forefront. Currently, the City of Sacramento is meeting with MFF operators, restaurant owners, and the California Restaurant Association to develop a plan that works for all interested parties. Even

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JOHN ROGERS RECEIVES CCDEH AWARD

We are pleased to announce that John Rogers, Chief of EMD's Environmental Health Division, is the recipient of the annual CCDEH (California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health) Gary Erbeck Food Safety Leadership Award. The



award is given to an individual that has demonstrated expertise and leadership in food safety within California.

Due to heightened awareness of food safety issues and new legislation requiring cooperation among a variety of stakeholders, EMD needed someone to take a leadership role. As a representative of the CCDEH Food Policy Committee, John has been an extraordinary leader. He has been leading the stakeholder groups for menu labeling (Senate Bill 1420), trans fat (Assembly Bill 97), and the Food Handler Card (Senate Bill 602) requirements.

John is an excellent communicator and facilitator and has been able to successfully apply these skills to bring parties with different interests together to seek common ground. He takes the time to listen and truly understand an issue or concern, whether he is facilitating an official meeting or having a one-on-one conversation. The results of John's efforts have been beneficial to many stakeholder groups throughout California, including regulators, industry representatives, and consumers. John has done a remarkable job with local stakeholders, including EMD's retail food industry group, the Sacramento Environmental Commission, the Public Health Advisory Group, and the Board of Supervisors.

John leads EMD's retail food protection program which received the Samuel J. Crumbine Award in 2008 and the CCDEH Excellence in Environmental Health Award in 2007. EMD is fortunate to have John here in Sacramento as he is a respected environmental health professional with a tremendous commitment to excellence in food safety.

GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS *(continued from previous column)*

though EMD does not restrict the time limit of these vendors, we are encouraged that this working group will come up with a positive outcome to meet the needs of the vendors, restaurants and the public who visit and enjoy the Gourmet Food Truck experience.

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT EXTRAORDINNAIRE

Environmental Specialist (ES) David Von Aspern represented EMD at the ground-breaking ceremony for the 7th and H Streets Mixed-Use Affordable Housing Project. The Project is located on the formerly blighted, one-quarter-city-block brownfield site across 7th Street and to the west of the County's Downtown Parking and Service Garage.



Jane Graf, Executive VP and Chief Operations Officer of Mercy Housing, Inc. (the master developer of the mid-rise residential and commercial building) officiated at the late afternoon ceremony. Other speakers included Supervisor Phil Serna; Councilmember Angelique Ashby; LaShalle Dozier, Executive Director of SHRA; and Mayor Kevin Johnson.

According to Ms. Graf, this project is remarkable as it progressed from the conceptual stage to "in the ground" in a timeframe of 2.5 years. Similar projects usually require eight to ten years to get "in the ground".

The property was acquired by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency who worked with numerous regulatory agencies, consultants and engineers to study, remediate and entitle the property for redevelopment. The property was then turned over to Mercy Housing.

The brownfield site, formerly a Sacramento City Fleet Services facility, contained fuel underground storage tanks (USTs), automotive service bays, hydraulic lifts and a steam cleaning wash bay. The USTs had been removed under EMD permit by a previous landowner, but the former automotive servicing areas required "Phase 2 Site Assessment" for potential toxics contamination. EMD's Site Assessment and Mitigation staff, and staff from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, shepherded the project through the investigation and remediation process in an expedited manner. The project lender would not begin to consider financing the project until soil and groundwater conditions were deemed sufficiently "clean" per EMD standards and protocols. EMD's contribution was critical to the progression of the project.

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REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT EXTRAORDINNAIRE *(continued from previous column)*

The 7th and H Streets Project is designed to help meet many important goals of the City of Sacramento, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and Mercy Housing, including: (1) reducing homelessness through the provision of high quality, service-enriched housing in fulfillment of Sacramento's *10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*; (2) providing affordable, safe, attractive workforce housing in the downtown area; and (3) creating a connection between the existing downtown neighborhood and the future Rail yards development. The building will provide 150 studio and one-bedroom apartment homes in an exceptionally designed, energy-efficient eight-story building. The property will also feature 75 apartments designated for formerly homeless residents and 75 apartments of workforce housing.

The Project will include:

- A 5,000 square foot health clinic operated by The Effort;
- 2,500 square feet of commercial retail space;
- Extensive community ("common area") space;
- Comprehensive Resident Services; and
- Close proximity to public transit.

UNPERMITTED FOOD VENDORS

EMD's Unpermitted Food Vendor Team has been busy this summer performing sweeps in the city and county. With the downturn of the economy, the number of unpermitted vendors has increased significantly. These vendors pose a food safety risk as they are preparing food without proper equipment; in addition, they create an unfair playing field for permitted food businesses. This year has been more challenging for the Unpermitted Food Vendor Team due to reduced county and city enforcement resources. To date, the Team has impounded 20 illegal fruit carts, disposed of fruit and has closed a total of 40 unpermitted food vendors throughout the county. Depending on staff availability and resources, the team conducts at least one sweep per week. City of Sacramento Code Enforcement staff has assisted EMD with these sweeps which allows us to more strongly impact the vendors. Code Enforcement also assists by providing disposal and storage facilities. Unpermitted food vendors are a countywide problem and require a coordinated effort from many departments. Food safety continues to be the driving force behind these sweeps which will continue throughout the summer.



EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

EMD Program Element	July 2010– June 2011
Food Placarding	Total: 12,550
Green (Pass)	11,770
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	683
Red (Closed)	97
Inspections	Total: 24,467
Food Protection	14,759
Farm Labor Camps	45
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	2,328
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	241
Liquid Waste	151
Medical Waste	135
Small Water Systems	55
Water & Monitoring Wells	752
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	445
UST Installations, Upgrade/Repair & Removal	206
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	877
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	1,239
Stormwater	1,481
Waste Tire	499
Tobacco Retailers	395
Commercial Recycling	859

EMD Program Element	July 2010– June 2011
Investigations	Total: 997
Food Borne Illness Complaint	162
Incident Response	232
Stormwater Complaint	535
Waste Tire	61
Childhood Lead	7
Workshop Attendance	Total: 896
Food Safety Education (Food School)	806
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	30
How To Get A Green Placard	60
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	0
Permits, Plans & Reviews	Total: 25,414
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	4,514
Monitoring Wells	960
Food Facilities	920
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	386
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	112
Land Use	142
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	18,380
Information Management	Total: 105,156
Documents Imaged	104,917
Public Record Reviews	239



HELLOS, GOODBYES & SERVICE RECOGNITION

For February—June 2011

**County of Sacramento
Board of Supervisors**

Phil Serna, District 1
 Jimmie Yee, District 2
 Susan Peters, District 3
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4
 Don Nottoli, District 5

Steven C. Szalay
 Interim County Executive

Countywide Services Agency

Bruce Wagstaff
 Administrator

Val Siebal
 EMD Director

New Hires

Herbert Liang—Student Intern
 Art Sheyko—Student Intern

Promotions

None

Service Awards

None

Retirements

None

EMD NEWS & NOTES is EMD's periodic newsletter providing information on EMD activities and services that enhance our community.

EMD is a Department within the Countywide Services Agency of Sacramento County which serves the businesses and residents of the County. EMD is committed to protecting public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

For more information about EMD's News & Notes newsletter, or to offer your feedback, please contact Linda Jimenez by email at jimenezl@saccounty.net