



Environmental Management Department

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Welcome to the June 2006 EMD Update. This issue contains activities and accomplishments that occurred in the Department during the month of May 2006. Please feel free to forward comments, questions and suggestions to Linda Jimenez at (916) 875-8582 or JimenezL@SacCounty.net.

Highlights

- *EMD Receives Board of Supervisors Approval To Move Forward With Food Facility Placarding*
- *Compliance Assistance Training Was Provided To 36 Businesses*
- *Website Updated With New And Expanded Food Safety Information*
- *EMD Staff Provide Training And Leadership At Statewide Conferences And Workshops*

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Environmental Management
Department

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Board Approves Food Safety Initiatives

On May 16, 2006, the County Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance language and personnel authorizations that will facilitate EMD Food Safety Initiatives. The Department is now on schedule to begin retail food facility "color coded" placarding in January 2007.

Commercial Recycling Program

EMD and the County Department of Waste Management and Recycling entered into a Memorandum of Understanding whereby EMD will implement a Commercial Recycling Program within the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) region. This SWA-funded program could potentially include over 10,000 businesses.

NEWS MEDIA INTERACTION

Color-Coded Placarding

EMD Director Mel Knight conducted numerous interviews with television, radio and newspaper representatives concerning Board approval of the Green, Yellow, Red Placarding System for restaurants, markets, school cafeterias and other retail food facilities. For more information, go to http://www.emd.sacounty.net/EH/EMDFoodProtect_ProposedEnhancements.htm. Stories aired on KCRA-NBC, KOVR-CBS, KTXL-FOX, KXTV-ABC, KQCA-WB and on KFBK and KXJZ-NPR Radio and were published in *The Sacramento Bee*. Communications and Media Officer (CMO) June Livingston also conducted interviews relative to the Placarding System with Reporter Thuy-Doan Le of *The Sacramento Bee* Business Section and Cal Aggie Reporter Ashley Wright.

Food Inspection Web Site

Information Technology (IT) Manager Geoff Marsh provided statistical information to *The Sacramento Bee* relative to public usage of the web site (www.foodinspect.saccounty.net).

Accidental Ignition

Environmental Specialist (ES) Ryan Artz of the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) conducted an interview with *Sacramento Bee* Reporter Chris Bowman regarding the accidental ignition of an aging Minuteman rocket booster at Aerojet.

APPOINTMENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

California Environmental Health Association (CEHA)

ES Sophia Jellá was recently elected President of CEHA, Superior Chapter. ESs Zarha Ruiz and Sonia Lee were elected President-Elect and Member-at-Large, respectively.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Employee Recognition Event

The Water Protection Division (WPD) held its semi-annual Employee Recognition Event at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, our environmental education partner.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Compliance Conferences

The Environmental Health Division (EHD) held Compliance Conferences with eight food facility operators due to repeated major food handling violations.

Food Safety Education (FSE)

Ten FSE classes were conducted in May with 125 participants representing 23 facilities. One FSE class was conducted in Cantonese; three classes were conducted in Spanish; and six classes were conducted in English.

Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshops

Two HMP workshops were held with 13 businesses attending.

Color-Coded Placarding System

Information Technology (IT) Manager Geoff Marsh, in cooperation with Supervising ESs Alicia Enriquez and Zarha Ruiz and ES Jannine Talusik, updated EMD's web site to include updated information on the Color-Coded Placarding System scheduled to begin in January 2007. Click on http://www.emd.saccounty.net/EH/EMDFoodProtect_ProposedEnhancements.htm.

Swimming Pool/Spa Training

Members of the EHD Pool Team (Supervising ESs Mark Barcellos and Kelly McCoy, and ESs Jeff Czaplá, Colleen Maitoza, Jannine Talusik and Mary Taylor) presented Swimming Pool/Spa Refresher Training to EHD staff.

Food Industry Meetings

EMD Director Mel Knight and members of the EHD Consumer Protection Team met with representatives from the Retail Food Industry as part of an ongoing series of meetings to discuss EMD's new placarding system for food facilities.

Lead Hazard Program

ES Sophia Jellá provided information on the Department's Lead Hazard Reduction and Enforcement Program at the May 6 Kid's Day event held in Rancho Cordova. Staff also participated in the Open House event for Rancho Cordova's new City Hall and at the Sacramento County Fair.

Isleton Crawdad Festival

Supervising ES Kelly McCoy and ES Manroop Shergill met with event coordinators in preparation for the Isleton Crawdad Festival to be held June 16-18, 2006.

Mercury In Fish

Supervising ES Mark Barcellos accompanied representatives from the State Department of Health Services and the County Department of Health and Human Services to determine posting sites for Mercury in Fish Warning Signs along the Delta.

Mock Food Facility Inspections

The EHD Food Enhancements Team (Supervising ESs Mark Barcellos, Alicia Enriquez, Kelly McCoy, and Zarha Ruiz, ES Jannine Talusik and Food Safety Specialist Robert Greenhalgh) conducted several mock food inspections in preparation for implementation of the Green/Yellow/Red Placarding System. Participants from the Retail Food Industry Working Group have agreed to participate in the Mock Inspections as policy and procedure documents are being developed. Field trials are scheduled to begin July 1, 2006; posting of placards is scheduled to begin January 1, 2007.

Ride-A-Long Inspections

Two potential candidates for EHD staff positions participated in ride-a-longs and witnessed retail food facility inspections.

Food Safety Information

CMO June Livingston provided information on food safety while boating, hiking and camping to the *Natomas Journal*. In addition, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is featuring EMD's 'Food Safety While Boating' Fact Sheet on their website and has provided a link to the EMD website.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Groundwater Survey

Supervising ESs Dana Booth and Steve Kalvelage and ES Susan Williams met with representatives from the USGS (United States Geological Society) to discuss a comprehensive groundwater survey by USGS for Sacramento County.

Public Health Laboratory

EMD Director Mel Knight, HMD Chief Dennis Green, and Supervising ES Alicia Enriquez met with Sandra Tougaw, County Public Health Laboratory Director, to discuss capabilities and utilization of the Public Health Laboratory.

Wastewater Association

Supervising ES Steve Kalvelage and ESs Terry Kochiamba and John Lewis attended a California Onsite Wastewater Association briefing on the status of State regulations pertaining to Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.

Drop Site For Customer Information

Senior Information Technology (IT) Analyst Jim Williams and IT Analyst Rob Milano completed testing and implemented an FTP drop site on the EMD web page. The FTP site will allow business owners and other EMD customers to securely forward large electronic files (e.g. digital photographs or compliance reports) to EMD without the use of an e-mail.

Household Fire Sprinklers

Supervising ES Steve Kalvelage and ES Chris Hunley met with representatives from the Sacramento Metro Fire District and the Sacramento Area Water Works Association regarding backflow devices required for household fire sprinkler systems.

Employee Recruitment

CMO June Livingston provided information on recruitment efforts at university career fairs to County Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) staff member Barbara Casselman.

EMD Hosts San Mateo County

IT staff provided a demonstration of the EMD document imaging system for Hazardous Materials staff from San Mateo County. San Mateo staff was specifically interested in imaging of HazMat CUPA (Certified Unified Program Agency) documents.

Proposed EMD Building

EMD Director Mel Knight, HMD Chief Dennis Green, Principal Architect Ken Murai, and Administrative Services Officer (ASO) Linda Jimenez met with County Facilities and Real Estate representatives to refine planning for the proposed EMD building that is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2007.

Countywide Web Portal

IT Manager Geoff Marsh participated on the Selection Committee for a Countywide Web Portal and Content Management System contract. The initial screening of vendors, product demonstrations and contract award are scheduled to occur in June.

Emergency Operations Center

EMD staff and management that serve as Emergency Responders at the County Emergency Operations Center met with Chief Rick Martinez and County Emergency Operations staff to reinforce expectations, roles and responsibilities. EMD Director Mel Knight participated in an additional meeting that was specific to the operations of the Planning and Intelligence Unit.

Department Safety

EMD Director Mel Knight and Personnel Officer Rhonda Engellenner met with representatives from County Risk Management to discuss options to support shared resources toward meeting the needs of a Department Safety Officer.

Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)

WPD Chief Cecilia Jensen and Department Secretary Karen Nelson provided staff support to the May SEC meeting. Chief Jensen highlighted the Food Safety Enhancements – Phase II which were approved by the County Board of Supervisors on May 16.

Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Incident Response

EMD Director Mel Knight and HMD Chief Dennis Green met with representatives from the City of Citrus Heights to finalize contract revisions that will enable the City to become a party to a countywide agreement for consolidated HazMat Incident Response.

TRAINING

Hazardous Material Assessments

ES David Von Aspern presented information on hazardous material assessments to attendees of a UC Davis Extension Class.

CEHA Annual Symposium

CMO June Livingston, Supervising ES Zarha Ruiz, and ES Sophia Jellá participated in the CEHA Annual Educational Symposium held in Garden Grove (CA).

Cross-Connection Training

EMD Food Safety Specialist Robert Greenhalgh presented a Cross-Connection Training Course for members of the EHD staff.

13th Annual Cross Media Enforcement Symposium

Supervising ESs Anthony Chu and Elise Rothschild and ESs Robert Duncan and Heather Tanner participated in the Annual Enforcement Symposium presented by the California Air Resources Board. Elise and Heather presented information on EMD's Enforcement Program and spoke about a current enforcement case.

Food Inspection Standardization Training

EHD staff participated in Food Inspection Standardization Training presented by Susan Strong of the California Department of Health Services and Robert Greenhagh, EMD Food Safety Specialist. EHD staff members also received Field Standardization Training.

PERSONNEL

Promotions

Zarha Ruiz was promoted from an ES III to an ES IV (Supervising Environmental Specialist) in the EHD.

New Employees

Larissa Juarez was hired as a Senior Office Assistant (SOA) in EHD.

Rupinder Singh was hired as an ES I in EHD.

Tien (Cindy) Trinh was hired as an Account Clerk III in Finance.

MAY 2006 BY THE NUMBERS

| | | May 2006 | Year To Date 2006 |
|-----|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | <u>Inspections</u> | | |
| 1. | Food Facilities | 808 | 4,774 |
| 2. | Dairy (including dairy farms and soft serve) | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Farm Labor Camps | 4 | 16 |
| 4. | Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 215 | 247 |
| 5. | Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations) | 10 | 85 |
| 6. | Liquid Waste | 34 | 155 |
| 7. | Medical Waste | 13 | 37 |
| 8. | Small Water Systems | 2 | 8 |
| 9. | Wells | 105 | 378 |
| 10. | Underground Storage Tank (UST) Installations, Upgrade/Repair, and Removal | 12 | 73 |
| 11. | Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste | 88 | 430 |
| 12. | Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials | 102 | 549 |
| 13. | Underground Storage Tank Facilities | 59 | 198 |
| 14. | Storm Water | 204 | 1,313 |
| 15. | Waste Tire | 46 | 67 |
| 16. | Tobacco Retailer | 16 | 202 |
| | Total | 1,718 | 8,532 |
| | | | |
| | <u>Investigations</u> | | |
| 1. | Consumer Complaints | 112 | 421 |
| 2. | Food Borne Illness | 37 | 107 |
| 3. | Incident Response | 56 | 234 |
| 4. | Storm Water | 24 | 103 |
| 5. | Waste Tire | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | Childhood Lead | 1 | 9 |
| | Total | 230 | 874 |
| | | | |
| | <u>Closures</u> | | |
| 1. | Food Facilities | 12 | 56 |
| | | | |
| | <u>Plan and Permit Reviews</u> | | |
| 1. | Hazardous Materials Business Plans | 297 | 1,439 |
| 2. | Monitoring Wells | 45 | 195 |
| 3. | Food Facilities | 135 | 655 |
| 4. | Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 16 | 150 |
| 5. | Underground Storage Tanks - Includes Removals, Installations, Upgrades and Repairs | 5 | 96 |
| 6. | Land Use | 22 | 101 |
| | Total | 520 | 2,636 |
| | | | |
| | <u>Information Management</u> | | |
| 1. | Documents Imaged | 13,660 | 56,041 |
| 2. | Public Record Reviews | 26 | 147 |
| | Total | 13,686 | 56,188 |