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April 2009

Volume 8, Number 4

Welcome to the April 2009 EMD Update. This issue contains activities and accomplishments that occurred in the Department during the month of March 2009. Please feel free to forward comments, questions and/or suggestions to Linda Jimenez at (916) 875-8582 or JimenezL@SacCounty.net.

Highlights

- *Director Meets With Mayor Of Saratoga (CA) On Novel Recycling Incentives*
- *VOIP Telephone System*
- *Staff Presents Information To California Groundwater Association*

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Roger Dickinson, 1st District
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Countywide Services Agency

Val F. Siebal, Director
Environmental Management
Department

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chili Cook-Off

The EMD Fundraising Committee hosted a Department-wide Chili Cook-Off event on March 4. Thanks to cook-off participants and EMD staff for supporting the event which raised approximately \$175. The money will be used to support other Department-wide events throughout the year.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshops

Two HMP workshops were held with six businesses in attendance.

Food Safety Education (FSE)

Nine FSE classes were conducted in March with 114 participants representing 35 facilities. Two classes were conducted in English; three classes were conducted in Spanish; three classes were conducted in Cantonese; and one class was conducted in Vietnamese.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Bay Area Medical Waste Advisory Group

ESs Chris Hunley, Lea Gibson and Mary Ellen Oetzel attended a meeting of the Bay Area Medical Waste Advisory Group.

Municipal Stormwater Unit

ES John Lewis met with the staff scientist from the Municipal Stormwater Unit of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and provided assistance to SWRCB in drafting the Phase II General Permit.

Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)

EMD Director Val Siebal and Department Executive Secretary Vicki Kloock provided staff support to the March meeting of the SEC. Agenda items included: (1) Code Enforcement Update by Tammy Derby, REHS, Program Manager, County Code Enforcement Division; (2) Multi-Family Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Ordinance presented by Dennis Green, Chief, Environmental Compliance Division, EMD; (3) Review of Environmental Excellence Awards Applications; (4) Review of Proposed SEC Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10; and (4) Discussion of Participation in Creek Week Cleanup.

Director Meets With Mayor Of Saratoga

Director Val Siebal and Paul Philleo, Director, County Waste Management and Recycling Department, met with Chuck Page, Mayor of Saratoga (CA), to discuss RecycleBank. Recycle Bank is a 4 year old green-tech company located in New York that employs a "Recycle-Record-Reward" motto. The RecycleBank: (1) Creates a partnership between municipalities, haulers, recyclers and merchants; and (2) Motivates and rewards households that recycle. Director Philleo is securing additional information on the RecycleBank program.

EnvisionConnect Software

Information Technology (IT) staff continues to test the EnvisionConnect software which was installed Department-wide on March 15. The next update to EnvisionConnect is currently being tested. Although there are still a few challenges to be resolved with the use of tablet computers in the field, EnvisionConnect seems to be functioning well.

EMD Food Industry Working Group

EMD Director Val Siebal attended a meeting of the Food Industry Working Group. The Group discussed expanding participation by including other representatives from the food industry.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Voice Over Information Packets (VOIP) Telephone System

Information Technology staff have ordered VOIP phones and software in preparation for use at the new EMD facility (10590 Armstrong Avenue, Mather). An internal web page has been created in order to answer questions relating to the VOIP system. A majority of staff will be using a VOIP 'soft phone' (a piece of software that allows calls to be made from a computer system utilizing a headset).

Tablet Computers

IT staff has completed the deployment of tablet computers to Environmental Specialists (ESs) within the Environmental Health Division. This deployment will afford staff an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the tablet computer before utilizing it to complete field inspections.

Conference Rooms At New Mather Facility

Information Technology staff have initialized the schedules for meeting rooms at the new Mather facility. Existing meeting schedules have copied to the Mather conference rooms. EMD staff have received an announcement about the change in meeting rooms with a reminder as to how to successfully reserve/book a conference room through Microsoft Outlook.

Computer Inventory

Information Technology staff have undertaken, and hopes to complete, a thorough computer equipment inventory before the Department moves to the new Mather facility. A number of surplus computers were donated to another County department.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

California Onsite Wastewater Association Conference (COWA)

EMD Director Val Siebal, ECD Chief Dennis Green, Supervising ES Lisa Todd, and ESs Terry Kociemba and Eric Haupt attended the COWA Conference.

California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA) Training Conference

Environmental Compliance Division (ECD) Program Manager Elise Rothschild and ESs Amanda Hakim, Sophia Johnston, Jonathan Pollack and Heather Tanner attended the 2009 CHIA Training Conference. The CHIA Conference focused on a wide range of topics of interest to hazardous materials investigators. Topics included witness training, robotic monitoring, and personal safety. Participants also received information on environmental case studies and lessons learned from successful environmental cases conducted throughout California.

Association for Environmental Health And Sciences (AEHS) Conference

ESs Christine Abad and Sue Erikson attended the AEHS Conference and received information regarding site assessments and remediation techniques and technologies.

Manager Of Landfill Operations (MOLO)

ES Mary Ellen Oetzel completed MOLO training hosted by the Solid Waste Association of Northern California (SWANA). The training included information on the processes/operations that occur at a landfill and the responsibilities of a Landfill Manager.

Risk Management Plan Workshop

ESs Dennis Karidis and Michelle Sever attended a Federal Environmental Protection Agency-sponsored Risk Management Plan Workshop which focused on the five-year update requirement.

National Underground Storage Tank (UST) Conference

ESs Matt Mulcahy, Bob Price and Dave Steele attended the 2009 National UST Conference. The Conference offered staff a unique opportunity to discuss and share information with UST regulators, industry experts and consultants from throughout the country. The Conference also provided training on leak prevention, contaminated site remediation, cleanup policy and management, and cleanup program funding and accountability.

Western State Project Environmental Enforcement Seminar

ESs Rebecca Knoche, Brion McGinness and Justin Ross attended the Western State Project Environmental Enforcement Seminar. The Seminar is scenario-driven and focuses on the process of enforcement within the regulatory system, providing regulators with a solid introduction to enforcement strategies, evidence gathering, and investigation techniques.

STAFF PRESENTATIONSCalifornia Groundwater Association

ESs Cheryl Hawkins and Chris Hunley presented information regarding cross connection control and small water systems to members of the California Groundwater Association.

PERSONNELNew Employees

Yoon Hahn was hired as an Account Clerk II in the Accounting/Finance Division.

Promotions

Lisa Christy was promoted from an Environmental Compliance Technician (ECT) I to an ECT II in ECD.

MARCH 2009 BY THE NUMBERS

		March 2009	To Date FY 2008-09
	<u>Food Facility Placards Issued</u>		
	A. Green – Pass	1,352	9,765
	B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	75	648
	C. Red – Closed	8	148
	<u>Inspections</u>		
1.	Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1,682	12,701
2.	Farm Labor Camps	3	42
3.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	0	1,900
4.	Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	20	184
5.	Liquid Waste	11	154
6.	Medical Waste	3	73
7.	Small Water Systems	2	25
8.	Wells	46	638
9.	Underground Storage Tank (UST) Installations, Upgrade/Repair, and Removal	42	242
10.	Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	101	800
11.	Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	132	1,257
12.	Underground Storage Tank Facilities	37	405
13.	Storm Water	159	2,241
14.	Waste Tire	81	351
15.	Tobacco Retailer	18	382
16.	Commercial Recycling	<u>338</u>	<u>1,823</u>
	Total	2,675	23,218
	<u>Investigations</u>		
1.	Consumer Complaints	50	536
2.	Food Borne Illness	31	149
3.	Incident Response	54	462
4.	Storm Water	23	206
5.	Waste Tire	0	0
6.	Childhood Lead	<u>0</u>	14
	Total	158	1,367
	<u>Class Attendance</u>		
1.	Food Safety Education (Food School)	114	803
2.	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	8	63
3.	“How To Get A Green” Workshop	<u>0</u>	<u>211</u>
	Total	122	1,077
	<u>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</u>		
1.	Hazardous Materials Business Plans	495	3,969
2.	Monitoring Wells	44	287
3.	Food Facilities	88	801
4.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	70	483
5.	Underground Storage Tanks - Includes Removals, Installations, Upgrades and Repairs	37	203
6.	Land Use	4	18
7.	Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	<u>1,715</u>	<u>14,202</u>
	Total	2,453	19,963
	<u>Information Management</u>		
1.	Documents Imaged	10,637	104,982
2.	Public Record Reviews	<u>15</u>	<u>164</u>
	Total	10,652	105,146