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

### **Highlights**

- *Environmental Health Division Issues 14,500+ Green/Yellow/Red Placards In FY 08-09*
- *Director Meets With VA Hospital Director*
- *EMD Attends Public Meeting With 400+ Constituents To Discuss Septic Tank Regulations*

### **COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Roger Dickinson, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Jimmie Yee, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Susan Peters, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Roberta MacGlashan, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Don Nottoli, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Terry Schutten, County Executive

Jim Hunt  
Acting Administrator  
Countywide Services Agency

Val F. Siebal, Director  
Environmental Management  
Department

### **NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Green/Yellow/Red Placards**

Environmental Health Division (EHD) staff issued over 14,500 placards to regulated food facilities during the second full fiscal year of implementation of the Green/Yellow/Red color-coded placard system. This is 99.8% of the anticipated inspections of Sacramento County food facilities.

### **COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH**

#### **Food Safety Education (FSE)**

Eight FSE classes were conducted in June with 92 participants representing 40 facilities. One class was conducted in English; one class was conducted in Punjabi; three classes were conducted in Spanish; and three classes were conducted in Cantonese.

#### **Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshops**

Two HMP workshops were held with six businesses in attendance.

#### **Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital**

EMD Director Val Siebal met with the Director of the VA Northern California Health Care System located on the Mather Field Campus to discuss mutual public health goals. Several of EMD's regulatory programs affect the operation of the Veterans Affairs Hospital. Director Siebal was advised that the Hospital is planning continued expansion to serve veterans needs.

#### **California Electronic Asset Recovery (CEAR)**

EMD Director Val Siebal met with management staff of the California Electronic Asset Recovery facility, a major e-waste recycler that occupies a huge building on the Mather Field Campus. EMD's Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) program inspects the CEAR facility and the County contracts with CEAR for e-waste disposal.

### County Budget Hearings

EMD Director Val Siebal participated in County budget hearings and discussions with other County Departments being affected by General Fund reductions.

### Septic Tank Regulations

EMD Director Val Siebal, Environmental Compliance Division (ECD) Chief Dennis Green, and Supervising Environmental Specialist (ES) Barry Marcus attended an evening meeting arranged by Supervisor Don Nottoli with 400+ constituents held in Wilton to discuss septic tank regulations and to introduce proposed changes to the Sacramento Ordinance. The primary topic of discussion involved the recently proposed State regulations outlining new and troublesome requirements for homeowners with septic systems. The proposed regulations have been withdrawn and the constituents were provided with an update as to what future regulations may be forthcoming. Questions were answered concerning potential future septic system oversight.

## PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

### Bay Area Medical Waste Advisory Group

Supervising ES Lisa Todd and ES Chris Hunley attended a meeting of the Bay Area Medical Waste Advisory Group to discuss medical waste issues.

### Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)

EMD Director Val Siebal and Department Executive Secretary Vicki Kloock provided staff support to the June meeting of the SEC. Pat Quinn, County Department of Waste Management and Recycling, presented information on the Solid Waste Authority's Greencycle Project which has a goal of creating a local composting area for community green waste. Commission members also received detailed information from Darrin Polhemus of the California State Water Resources Control Board regarding the state of pharmaceutical waste in our water. Members were also presented with an update on sharps' waste by Burke Lucy of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Dennis Green, Chief, Environmental Compliance Division, answered questions on the amendment to the Below Ground Tank Ordinance which had been continued from the May meeting.

### Information Technology

Due to overlapping vacation schedules and attention to special projects, Information Technology Technician Mario Martin served as the main—and often only—Departmental IT support person during the month of June. Mario was able to keep up with the constant flow of service requests and maintain a reasonably happy workforce which is a tribute to Mario's technical and interpersonal skills.

### Bay Area Food Technical Advisory Committee (BAFTAC)

Supervising ES Kelly McCoy participated in a meeting of the Bay Area Food Technical Advisory Committee to discuss California Retail Food Code issues with representatives from other Northern California counties.

### Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)

ECD Chief Dennis Green, Supervising ES Lisa Todd, and ESs Lea Gibson, Mary Ellen Oetzel, and Patrice Webb participated in the quarterly meeting of the Northern California LEA Roundtable to discuss solid waste issues.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Menu Labeling Law

EHD Chief John Rogers, Senior Information Technology (IT) Analyst John Stender, ES Elena Drobenyuk, and Environmental Compliance Technician (ECT) Lisa Robbins worked to identify "chain" food facilities to be affected by the new menu labeling law. Effective July 1, 2009 chain restaurants are required to provide nutritional information about their regular menu items. For more information visit the EMD website at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net).

### Construction/Demolition Waste

ES Mary Ellen Oetzel began weekly inspections for an eight-week demonstration project to determine if certain highly shredded construction and demolition waste is suitable as alternative daily landfill cover at a local landfill.

### Tablet Computers

Senior IT Analysts Jim Guilliams and John Stender and IT Analyst Rob Milano continued to work with EHD staff to deploy tablet PCs for in-field data collection and inspection report printing. IT staff also set up a computer training lab for new tablet users so that they can become more familiar with the hardware and procedures without risk to the Department's main tracking database.

### Menu Labeling Guidelines

EHD Chief John Rogers continued to work with a statewide group composed of representatives from various jurisdictions, industry associations and the State Department of Public Health to develop guidelines for implementation of mandatory menu labeling for chain food facilities.

### Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance

Information Technology Manager Geoff Marsh, and Senior IT Analysts Jim Guilliams and John Stender assisted program staff with defining the facility inventory, creating the data collection codes and procedures for inspections, defining potential violations and preparing the document imaging system for Recycling program forms that will be used.

### UC Davis Anaerobic Digester Waste To Energy Project

EMD Director Val Siebal, ECD Chief Dennis Green and Supervising ES Lisa Todd toured the UC Davis Anaerobic Digester Waste to Energy Project located in Davis. A similar project is being proposed for the Folsom Prison facility.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

### Field Sampling And Analytical Interpretation

EMD hosted a Field Sampling and Analytical Interpretation training workshop which was sponsored by the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and conducted by Network Environmental Systems, Inc. EMD's Hazardous Materials field staff and staff specialists from a number of Northern California CUPA's participated the training workshop.

### National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

EHD Deputy Chief Alicia Enriquez participated in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of NEHA. Chief Enriquez currently serves as the Region 2 Vice President of NEHA which encompasses Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada. ESs Dennis Catanyag and Sonia Lee also attended the Conference.

### Recycled Water

ES Chris Hunley attended Recycled Water Site Supervisor training presented by the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources. The purpose of the training was to gain knowledge in order to educate new tenants in the safe and efficient operation of their recycled water systems.

### Bacteriological Analysis Of Water

ESs Cheryl Hawkins and Chris Hunley attended a presentation on the Bacteriological Analysis of Water presented by BSK Laboratories and hosted by the Sacramento Area Water Works Association.

## STAFF PRESENTATIONS

### Aboveground Petroleum Storage

ESs Sean Daneluk, Rebecca Knoche and Jeni Van Dusen conducted two workshops on requirements contained in the recently enacted legislation regarding aboveground petroleum storage. Representatives from over 55 facilities attended the workshop sessions.

### Recreational Health Plan Review

Supervising ES Colleen Maitoza conducted a presentation on Recreational Health Plan Review procedures at the National Environmental Health Association's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference.

**JUNE 2009 BY THE NUMBERS**

		<b>JUNE 2009</b>	<b>To Date FY 2008-09</b>
	<u>Food Facility Placards Issued</u>		
	A. Green – Pass	1,114	13,430
	B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	86	888
	C. Red – Closed	13	183
	<u>Inspections</u>		
1.	Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1,522	17,479
2.	Farm Labor Camps	3	51
3.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	96	2,015
4.	Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	22	234
5.	Liquid Waste	15	208
6.	Medical Waste	12	108
7.	Small Water Systems	7	35
8.	Wells	65	866
9.	Underground Storage Tank (UST) Installations, Upgrade/Repair, and Removal	17	339
10.	Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	116	1,065
11.	Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	166	1,619
12.	Underground Storage Tank Facilities	44	522
13.	Storm Water	98	2,634
14.	Waste Tire	87	586
15.	Tobacco Retailer	12	411
16.	Commercial Recycling	<u>105</u>	<u>2,281</u>
	Total	2,387	30,453
	<u>Investigations</u>		
1.	Consumer Complaints	76	742
2.	Food Borne Illness	20	210
3.	Incident Response	41	605
4.	Storm Water	10	245
5.	Waste Tire	0	0
6.	Childhood Lead	<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>
	Total	148	1,818
	<u>Class Attendance</u>		
1.	Food Safety Education (Food School)	92	1,094
2.	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	6	82
3.	“How To Get A Green” Workshop	<u>0</u>	<u>211</u>
	Total	98	1,387
	<u>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</u>		
1.	Hazardous Materials Business Plans	459	5,277
2.	Monitoring Wells	24	385
3.	Food Facilities	74	1,035
4.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	65	810
5.	Underground Storage Tanks - Includes Removals, Installations, Upgrades and Repairs	11	236
6.	Land Use	6	32
7.	Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	<u>1,866</u>	<u>19,623</u>
	Total	2,505	27,398
	<u>Information Management</u>		
1.	Documents Imaged	11,216	137,021
2.	Public Record Reviews	<u>21</u>	<u>221</u>
	Total	11,237	137,242