



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

November 2015

### CYANOBACTERIA WARNING FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER'S SANDY COVE BEACH

by Eric Haupt

The Environmental Management Department's (EMD) Environmental Health staff assisted California Department of Fish and Wildlife in obtaining several water samples from the Sacramento River near Sandy Cove Park. The sampling occurred after the County Public Health Officer alerted the Environmental Health Division of a canine death possibly due to cyanobacteria from blue-green algae blooms.

Blue-green algae is a bacteria that obtains its energy through photosynthesis. The bacteria can produce toxins which can concentrate in the water creating health concerns for people and animals. Drought conditions mean warm, slow moving waters that are rich in nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous create optimal conditions for these bacteria to grow.

Although the toxin levels detected in the water samples were below the California Department of Public Health recommended action level of 8 parts per billion, the Department determined that issuing a public health advisory was prudent due to visible signs of algae scum and mats on the surface of the water.



Water Sampling

The beach was monitored by Environmental Health staff over a two week period utilizing guidelines published by the State, following the initial sampling. When no signs of algae mats or scums were observed, the advisory was removed after the two week monitoring period.

#### 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

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ATTENDS CARMICHAEL FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

by Tammy Derby

Tammy Derby, Supervising Environmental Specialist IV, joined Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasiyre, in attending the Carmichael Forum on Homelessness on September 24, 2015. Five panelists at the Forum spoke about their efforts in addressing community con-

cerns and to report on aid that is being provided to the homeless in Sacramento.

Sacramento County Chief Executive Officer Brad Hudson spoke about Sacramento County's allocation to increase services to the homeless – mental health, housing, and other

services. He discouraged people from giving money directly to panhandlers, but encouraged giving to local charities and organizations that help the homeless. There are many organizations in Sacramento whose facilities are permitted by the Environmental Management Department to prepare and distribute food to the homeless which also include restroom facilities and running water so that food-borne disease transmission is prevented. He encouraged constituents to report nuisance complaints to 311 and crime to the Sacramento Sheriffs Department.



Loaves and Fishes, Sacramento

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Ryan Loofbourrow shared about his organization, Sacramento Steps Forward, and how they have transitioned their approach to helping the homeless into permanent housing. Previously, the homeless were required to obtain the medical and/or mental health services prior to qualifying for permanent housing.



Now, the focus is on permanent housing solutions first, then bringing the other services to them, and they are seeing a much higher success rate.

Captain Palmer spoke about his Transient Enforcement Detail (TED) unit and introduced the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) team dedicated to re-

sponding to incidents involving the homeless. Camps, nuisance and vandalism complaints are investigated. He described a plan to have TED officers ride with County DHA reps to provide service needs assessments in the field on a more routine basis, taking services where they are most needed.

Sacramento County is taking a serious, coordinated approach to the problem, not trying to move them on but assisting with meeting their needs for food and permanent shelter. The Environmental Management Department is one part of the team that is committed to finding solutions that take care of the homeless in our region and actively partners with local organizations that are permitted to safely feed large groups of people at such events.

## Environmental Management Department at the Annual Giving Campaign 5 K.



## CROSS CONNECTION PORTAL WINS AGAIN!!

On October 12, 2015, EMD's Cross-Connection Control Program Web Portal (Portal) was awarded the Public Technology Institute's (PTI) 2015 Solutions Significant Achievement Award. The prestigious Solutions Award is awarded to local government agencies that leverage technology to create real world solutions that can be replicated by others. Since 2012, EMD's Portal has saved over 3,300 staff hours and \$6,000.00 in mailing costs, annually.



Rami Zakaria, Dr. Alan Shark, Chris Hunley, Marie Woodin



## A Growing Threat to Inspectors and Law Enforcement

by Robert Duncan

On October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Management Department (EMD) hosted Sovereign Citizens – Officer & Inspector Safety Awareness training that was presented by Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The free training was coordinated and sponsored by California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA). The training on October 7<sup>th</sup> included all EMD employees and the training on October 8<sup>th</sup> included peace officers and inspectors from all over Northern California who are employed by a government agency. Environmental Specialist Heather Tanner and Sacramento County District Attorney Criminal Investigator Jay Czajkowski, both CHMIA Board Members coordinated the valuable training with SPLC.

Sovereign Citizens in America consists of hundreds of thousands of far-right extremists who believe that they – not judges, juries, law enforcement or government officials – get to decide which laws to obey and which to ignore, and who don't think they should have to pay taxes. The sovereign movement is growing fast, and its partisans are clogging up the courts with their indecipherable fillings. When cornered,

many of them lash out in rage, frustration and in the most extreme cases, acts of deadly violence. (<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/sovereign-citizens-movement>)

The training provided by SPLC, taught officers and inspectors how to identify and approach a sovereign citizen. Sovereign Citizens will use unusual rhetoric when spoken to by officers or inspectors and will provide falsified documentation, such as fraudulent driver's license, vehicle tags, and birth certificates when requested. One of the first things to recognize is that a Sovereign Citizen may be argumentative and challenge the authority and jurisdiction of an officer or inspector. The Environmental Management Department has already encountered a Sovereign Citizen in their body art inspection program.

When dealing with a Sovereign Citizen, proceed with caution. Officer and inspector safety is the number one priority. Remain calm and professional in your encounter and promptly notify law enforcement after you have removed yourself from the situation.

### VETERANS DAY 2015:

**THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE SERVING, AND HAVE SERVED, IN OUR MILITARY**



Elise Rothschild, Robert Duncan, Marie Woodin, Val Siebal

On November 10th, The Office of the Secretary of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recognized Sacramento County employers who support employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Forces. EMD was recognized as an employer supporting Environmental Specialist Supervisor Robert Duncan who actively serves in the US Coast Guard Reserves as a Marine Response Technician Chief Petty Officer.





## November Safety Tip

Don't let your Thanksgiving holiday end in disaster. Follow these food and fire safety tips.

### Food Poisoning

Following these food safety tips can keep any Thanksgiving meal safe from bacteria and keep your family and friends from getting sick:

- Safely cooking a turkey starts with correctly defrosting it; place your bird on a tray or pan to catch any juices and keep it refrigerated until it's ready to cook.
- A 20-pound frozen turkey can take up to five days to thaw out so plan ahead.
- Turkeys (and stuffing!!) need to be cooked to an internal temperature of 165 °F.
- Leftovers need to be refrigerated within two hours after serving.

### Fire Safety

The average number of cooking fires on Thanksgiving is triple that of a normal day. Here are a few simple ways to avoid fires:

- "Stand by your pan" when cooking. Never leave food, grease, or oils cooking on the stovetop unattended.
- Pot holders, oven mitts, food wrappers, and other things that can catch fire should be kept away from the stove.
- Children should also be kept away from hot stoves and paid particular attention to when they are in the kitchen.
- Facing pot handles towards the rear of the stove can save them from being knocked over and scalding people nearby.

EC Division offered 2 **Underground Storage Tank Workshops** in October. During the workshops, EMD staff assisted 10 people in submitting their Underground Storage Tank forms electronically through either the EMD web portal or the California Environmental Reporting System.

**Food Safety Education Classes**  
There were 4 onsite Food Safety Education classes conducted in October 2015, with a total of 43 participants representing 10 facilities. Two classes were conducted in English and 2 in Spanish.

### Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

The Environmental Management Department offered 2 Hazardous Material Plan Portal Workshops during October 2015. There were 17 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.

<b>By the Numbers October 2015</b>	
	Oct-15
<b>Food Facility Placards Issued</b>	
A. Green – Pass	1427
C. Red – Closed	25
B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	86
<b>Inspections</b>	
Abandoned Wells	25
Above Ground Storage Tank	8
Body Art	14
Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1896
Farm Labor Camps	0
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	1
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	22
Liquid Waste	28
Medical Waste	9
Small Water Systems	7
Wells and Monitoring Wells	131
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	78
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	131
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	45
Underground Storage Tank Removal, Installations, Upgrades, Repairs	20
Storm Water Non Food Facility	40
Waste Tire	72
Tobacco Retailer	37
Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling	17
Refuse Vehicle Inspections/	1
Septic Tank Pumper Trucks	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2582</b>
<b>Investigations</b>	
Body Art	8
Consumer Complaints	83
Food Borne Illness	14
Incident Response	66
Solid Waste	1
Storm Water	1
Waste Tire	2
Childhood Lead	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>	
Food Safety Education (Food School)	43
Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	17
"How To Get A Green Placard For Food Inspection" Workshop Online also.	0
Underground Storage Forms Workshop	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</b>	
Abandoned Wells	27
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	240
Body Art	3
Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells	116
Food Facilities	129
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	113
Underground Storage Tanks Plans and Permit Reviews	10
Land Use	4
Local Oversight Program	0
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	2461
<b>Total</b>	<b>3103</b>
<b>Imaging</b>	
Document Pages Imaged	8860