

Environmental Management Department

EMD NEWS & NOTES

Fall 2008 Edition

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AS WE HEAD INTO WINTER...

The rain we so desperately need also brings with it environmental challenges. EMD's Stormwater Contamination Prevention Program was recently recognized for its efforts and this recognition is the lead article for this newsletter.

Many businesses conduct activities that can contribute to the degradation of local and state water resources without realizing their contribution. From construction-related silt, clay and cement that destroy riparian habitat to sewage and toxic chemicals potentially ingested by each of us in our drinking water, stormwater runoff is being recognized as one of the most impactful environmental problems of our urbanized society. For areas like the Sacramento region which have long dry periods, pollutants can unobtrusively build up until the first flushing rain of the season when the oils and greases of cars and restaurant mops create the rainbows on puddles that can pollute drinking water. With the industry's attention, we can prevent that contamination and help to preserve our water resources.



Val F. Siebal, Director

EMD RECEIVES 2008 EPA CLEAN WATER ACT RECOGNITION AWARD

On October 20, 2008, the Commercial/Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program of the Environmental Management Department received the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Clean Water Act (CWA) Recognition Award for Stormwater Management Excellence* for its implementation of the Sacramento Region's Commercial/Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program on behalf of the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership (SSQP). EMD was nominated for the Award by the State Water Resources Control Board and the application was supported by EPA Region IX before the selection was made by EPA Headquarters. The USEPA presented the Award to EMD at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) held in Chicago. WEFTEC is North America's largest Conference of its kind and is a premier platform from which to receive this prestigious national award.

The SSQP is comprised of state-permitted municipal agencies from the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, and the unincorporated area of Sacramento County. EMD and the SSQP collaborate to implement the Commercial/Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program which actively protects our region's waterways. The County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources and other County Departments have partnered with EMD to support effective and quality delivery of the Stormwater Program.

EMD's implementation of the Commercial/Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program has been successful because it has these key components:

- Consistency
- Education
- Quality Inspections
- Efficiency
- Compliance Assurance

EMD's Stormwater Program was initiated in July 2004 with oversight at nine types of business, including auto body shops, auto dealers, auto repair shops, equipment rental agencies, nurseries, kennels, restaurants, retail gas outlets, and facilities covered under the State General Industrial Stormwater Permit.

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**EMD RECEIVES EPA CLEAN WATER ACT
RECOGNITION AWARD, *continued from page 1***

The main components of EMD's Commercial/Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program are as follows:

Consistency:

- One Countywide inspection program across the many jurisdictions represented by the SSQP.
- EMD provides a consistent regulatory experience for businesses in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, and the unincorporated County area.
- Creation of a level playing field for Sacramento's businesses concerning program policy and enforcement.
- Assurance that equal resources are applied towards water protection in every community in Sacramento.

Education:

- Initial program emphasis on education rather than enforcement.
- Creation and distribution of business-specific Compliance Assistance Bulletins, brochures, Best Management Practices guidelines, resource lists, and employee training guidelines with the County's Department of Water Resources and the Business Environmental Resource Center.
- Language translations of educational materials in order to better meet the diverse needs of the regulated community.
- Delivery of many compliance assistance and training workshops.

Quality Inspections:

- Triennial business inspections (approximately 5,000 in the first three years) by knowledgeable, well-trained staff.
- Compliance consultations during inspections.

Efficiency:

- Use of inspection checklists to ensure standardization.
- Cross-training of EMD inspectors to perform stormwater inspections at gas stations, hazardous materials and food facilities to offer businesses consolidated inspections, reducing the number of different inspectors businesses must encounter.
- Funding/fees paid by regulated businesses, not general taxes.

**EMD RECEIVES EPA CLEAN WATER ACT
RECOGNITION AWARD, *continued***

Compliance Assurance:

- Triennial routine inspections.
- Re-inspections as necessary and accelerated "Monitoring Status" for repeat violations to guarantee compliance.
- EMD's commitment to education, inspection and enforcement advances the ultimate goal of improving water quality for the Sacramento Region.

EMD is honored to have received this 2008 Clean Water Act (CWA) Award For Stormwater Management Excellence from EPA and remains dedicated to improved water quality through responsible stormwater quality management in the Sacramento area.

**EMD RECEIVES
CAL-EPA'S HIGHEST CUPA RATING**



Representatives from the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), the State Water Resources Control Board, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recently completed a three day audit of EMD's Unified Program. EMD's Hazardous Materials Division is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Sacramento County. In this capacity, EMD has been delegated the authority to provide regulatory oversight for the Hazardous Waste Generator, Hazardous Materials Business Plan, Underground and Above Ground Storage Tank and California Accidental Release Prevention Programs for the entire County.

The audit included the observation and evaluation of EMD personnel as they completed and documented facility inspections, review of inspection reports, compliant investigations and enforcement cases, and an evaluation of EMD educational and outreach efforts.

The final report summarizing the audit findings concluded that EMD "meets or exceeds standards" in its CUPA program implementation. This is the highest possible rating and is awarded infrequently by Cal-EPA. One of several outstanding program initiatives noted by the audit team is that "the Sacramento CUPA has an exceptional education and outreach program." Another comment was that "the Sacramento CUPA has an effective and aggressive enforcement program with consistent application of the Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO) process across all program elements."

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENFORCEMENT

EMD's Hazardous Materials Division recently completed a noteworthy enforcement case against the State of California Department of General Services (DGS). EMD found that DGS committed several



violations relating to its operation of fuel underground storage tanks at the State Capitol building, the Paul R. Bonderson building located at 901 P Street, the Department of Health Services building located at 714 P Street, the Library Courts building located at 914 Capitol Mall, and at the DGS building located at 1416 9th Street. The viola-

tions varied, but the more major transgressions included State Health and Safety Code requirements to: (1) Failure to conduct underground storage tank secondary containment testing every three years; (2) Failure to annually certify the leak detection monitoring system for tanks; and (3) Failure to remove water from the secondary containment system which rendered leak detection systems inoperable at some locations.

A settlement was reached which required DGS to pay EMD a total of \$164,000 in penalties. In addition, DGS completed a review of its procedures for all underground storage tanks located at State buildings throughout California. That review resulted in the shifting of UST oversight responsibility from Building Managers to the DGS Environmental Health and Safety unit. The shifting of responsibility is expected to improve the compliance history of State USTs in multiple jurisdictions.



The case highlighted EMD's regulatory policy of enforcing environmental regulations and laws throughout Sacramento County whether the affected a facility is in the public or private sector.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY REHS TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2002, the Environmental Health Division (EHD) began implementing several food program enhancements, including an increase in inspection frequency for retail food establishments. Over a four year period, EHD added twenty environmental health professionals and support staff to meet the new workload demands. These added positions presented a recruitment challenge to EHD due to an existing statewide shortage of California Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS). REHS registration is required in order to perform both retail food and swimming pool/spa inspections in California. As a result of the limited candidate pool of trained REHSs available, a decision was made to establish a formal REHS Training Program within EHD.

In 2004, Sacramento County's REHS Training Plan was updated and approved by the California Department of Public Health - Registered Environmental Health Specialist Program. Implementation of the REHS training program was led by June Livingston, Alicia Enriquez and Jannine Talusik. Currently, the REHS Training Program is managed by Zarha Ruiz and Jannine Talusik. The Program demands not only coordination within EHD, but also relies heavily on training partnerships with both the Hazardous Materials and Water Protection Divisions within the Department.

The REHS Training Program has been complemented by an aggressive recruitment effort aimed at developing the California REHS candidate pool. EHD staff has participated in multiple university career fairs each year and EMD has increased the number of Student Interns employed within the Division.

REHS candidates are required by the State to obtain 450 training hours in six environmental health disciplines in order to be admitted into the REHS examination. EHD is able to provide training hours for the Food Protection and Recreational Health portions of the training requirements. Hazardous Materials and Water Protection Division staff have provided the training hours required for the Solid Waste, Hazardous Materials, Water Protection, and Liquid Waste portions. Coordination and planning with the other Divisions of the Department is imperative. The REHS candidates and all of the staff within EHD are incredibly fortunate and appreciative that such a vast wealth of knowledge and competencies are available from experts within the Department. The Hazardous Materials and the Water Protection Divisions coordinate a variety of training opportunities for the REHS candidates. A few of the training opportunities include: tours of the Kiefer Landfill, UC Davis Medical Center and the Sacramento Regional Water Treatment Plant, as well as a variety of classroom and field training.

To date, over 25 individuals have participated in the Sacramento County REHS Training Program. Training Program participants have, thus far, achieved a nearly 100% pass rate on the REHS exam.

EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

EMD Program Element	July 2008– Sept 2008
Food Placarding	Total: 3,407
Green (Pass)	3,132
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	196
Red (Closed)	79
Inspections	Total: 9,163
Food Protection	4,181
Farm Labor Camps	24
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	1,888
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	49
Liquid Waste	62
Medical Waste	16
Small Water Systems	10
Water & Monitoring Wells	291
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	148
UST Installations, Upgrade/Repair & Removal	70
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	331
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	558
Stormwater	816
Waste Tire	0
Tobacco Retailers	113
Commercial Recycling	606

EMD Program Element	July 2008 Sept 2008
Investigations	Total: 293
Food Borne Illness Complaint	53
Incident Response	162
Stormwater Complaint	73
Waste Tire	0
Childhood Lead	5
Workshop Attendance	Total: 459
Food Safety Education (Food School)	248
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	20
How To Get A Green Placard	191
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	0
Permits, Plans & Reviews	Total: 6,612
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	1,435
Monitoring Wells	94
Food Facilities	313
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	124
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	39
Land Use	4
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	4,603
Information Management	Total: 38,412
Documents Imaged	38,351
Public Record Reviews	61

County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors

Roger Dickinson, District 1
 Jimmie Yee, District 2
 Susan Peters, District 3
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4
 Don Nottoli, District 5

 Terry Schutten, County Executive

Countywide Services Agency
 Penelope Clarke, Administrator
 Ann Edwards-Buckley, Deputy Administrator

 Val Siebal, EMD Director

HELLOS, GOODBYES & SERVICE RECOGNITION

for June – September 2008

New Hires

Sarah Crowl
 Valerie Kritscher
 Mario Martin

Promotions

Judy Andrade	Lisa Robbins
Lisa Christy	Amy Roth
Craig Dorrrough	Ajay Sharma
Steve Moua	

Service Awards

Dana Booth—15 years
 Terry Kociemba—15 years
 Chris Pace—15 years
 Fannie Thai—20 years

Retirements

None

SPECIAL THANKS...

EMD would like to extend special thanks and recognition to BEREC, the Business Environmental Resource Center, for its skill and assistance in designing and developing the format for **EMD NEWS & NOTES**.

BEREC is part of Sacramento County's Department of Economic Development & Intergovernmental Affairs. BEREC partners with EMD, and other local governmental entities, to enhance County service delivery.

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