



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

### January 2015

### *Environmental Specialist Sara Cardoza interviewed in Sacramento Bee's Feast Section*



Environmental Specialist (ES) Sara Cardoza was interviewed by the Sacramento Bee as one of Sacramento County's food inspectors that

peratures are being maintained, that cleanliness procedures are in place, that food is from approved sources and that other high risk factors of food borne illness are absent, such as vermin and surfacing sewage.

inspects approximately 5747 food facilities in the county each year. ES Cardoza received her bachelor's degree in nutrition science from UC Davis and then obtained her Registered Environmental Health Specialist certificate.

"The biggest cause of food-related illness is improper hand-washing."

Part of a health inspector's skill set includes building a rapport with clients receiving the inspections so that when problems do arise there is open communication to resolve the safety issue.

Sacramento County's color coded placarding system has "been a great way to invite the public into our process, and we've seen a decrease in major violations and food borne illnesses because of it."

ES Cardoza explained that health inspectors visit each food facility three times per year, unannounced. They inspect the facility to ensure that proper food tem-

#### 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

### *Single Use Bag Ban Referendum Puts the Bag Ban on the November 2016 Ballot*

It's a common sight to see single use plastic bags blowing from a bush limb or flapping against a fence whether you're driving down the freeway or just driving through your neighborhood. This particular visual blight is only a little over 3 decades old, since the single use plastic bag was introduced to US grocery stores

in 1977. Plastic bags are cheap to use, but ultimately very costly to the environment.

Over 139 California cities and counties have passed legislation



(over)

banning single use plastic bags.

The following fact sheet is copied with permission from the Californians Against Waste (CAW) website and offers food for thought.

### What's Wrong With Single-Use Plastic Shopping Bags?

Plastic bags pose unique and disproportionately high environmental and societal costs that have not and cannot be mitigated through recycling alone:

- Ubiquitous, light, and easily airborne plastic bags have a tendency to blow out of trash cans, garbage trucks, and landfills, making them the single largest source of 'inadvertent' litter.
- Non-biodegradable, plastic bags persist in the marine and terrestrial environment for decades, while their useful life is typically measured in minutes.
- Plastic bags threaten wildlife through ingestion and entanglement. Plastic bags and pieces have been found in the stomachs of dead whales and other marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and sea birds.
- Made from non-renewable petroleum or natural gas, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of plastic bags exceeds that of alternatives (reusable & recycled paper bags).



- Plastic grocery bags distributed in California annually generate nearly 350,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.
- The 'disposal cost' of plastic bags is notable, less for the 'volume disposed' (less than 1% of trash by weight) but rather for the disproportionately high cost of collecting, managing, containing and 'recollecting' plastic bags after they are initially disposed.

□ California cities and counties spend an estimated \$428 million annually to clean up litter and prevent marine pollution. Plastics bags contribute \$34 million to \$107 million to these costs, based on litter data in San Jose and LA County.

□ A CAW survey of Northern California landfills found that the cost of on-site litter clean up ranged from \$60,000 to \$400,000 annually. One-quarter to one-half of the litter could be described as 'plastic bags'.

□ California retailers currently spend in excess of \$225 million annually to provide consumers with 'free' shopping bags. Assuming these costs have been added to the price of groceries, consumers are likely paying an average of \$17/household/annually in higher grocery prices to cover the cost of 'free' bags (even if you don't use them).

### Food Safety Education Classes

There were 5 onsite and 1 off site Food Safety Education classes conducted in December 2014, with a total of 60 participants representing 22 facilities. Three classes were conducted in English, 2 in Spanish, and 1 in Cantonese.

### Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

The Environmental Management Department offered 1 Hazardous Material Plan Portal Workshop during December, 2014. There was 1 individual that attended this workshop, representing 1 business. During the workshop, 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.

## January Safety Tip by Justin Ross

A fall from a portable ladder can lead to many debilitating and painful injuries. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration have some simple points to minimize your risk of injury.

- Read and follow all labels/markings on the ladder
- Avoid electrical hazards! – Look for overhead power lines before handling a ladder. Avoid using a metal ladder near power lines or exposed energized electrical equipment.
- Always inspect the ladder prior to using it. If the ladder is damaged, it must be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
- Always maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on the ladder when climbing. Keep your body near the middle of the step and always face the ladder while climbing.
- Ladders must be free of any slippery material on the rungs, steps or feet.
- Do not use the top step/rung of a ladder as a step/rung unless it was designed for that purpose.
- Use a ladder only on a stable and level surface, unless it has been secured (top or bottom) to prevent displacement.
- An extension or straight ladder used to access an elevated surface must extend at least 3 feet above the point of support.
- The proper angle for setting up a ladder is to place its base a quarter of the working length of the ladder from the wall or other vertical surface.
- A ladder placed in any location where it can be displaced by other work activities must be secured to prevent displacement or a barricade must be erected to keep traffic away from the ladder.
- Do not exceed the maximum load rating of a ladder. Be aware of the ladder's load rating and of the weight it is supporting, including the weight of any tools or equipment.



**Bad Ideas.....**



# Welcome to EMD's New Employees



Kertisa Mitchell, Senior Office Assistant, 1st Floor



James Van Buren, Environmental Specialist III, Environmental Compliance

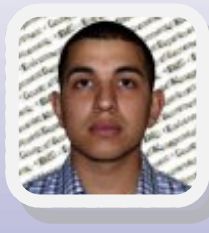


Chris Brozek, Environmental Compliance Technician

## And New Interns



Luz Hernandez



Pedro Chavez



Sandra Barron

## Retiring...

Susan Williams, Environmental Compliance Environmental Specialist III, will be retiring January 23rd, 2015, after 25 years of service with Sacramento County's Environmental Management Department. Susan is looking forward to spending time with her grandkids, taking care of her farm animals and traveling wherever she has a notion to, with her newly retired husband. We wish you all the best Susan!



Susan Williams

By the Numbers December 2014		
		14-Dec
	<b>Food Facility Placards Issued</b>	
	A. Green – Pass	893
	C. Red – Closed	10
	B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	37
	<b>Inspections</b>	
1	Abandoned Wells	17
2	Above Ground Storage Tank	18
3	Body Art	45
4	Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1125
5	Farm Labor Camps	
6	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	4
7	Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	38
8	Liquid Waste	20
9	Medical Waste	10
10	Small Water Systems	
11	Wells	70
12	Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	158
13	Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	251
14	Underground Storage Tank Facilities	28
15	Storm Water Non Food Facility	25
16	Waste Tire	35
17	Tobacco Retailer	66
18	Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling	101
19	Refuse Vehicle Inspections	126
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2137</b>
	<b>Investigations</b>	
1	Body Art	7
2	Consumer Complaints	62
3	Food Borne Illness	8
4	Incident Response	11
5	Solid Waste	1
6	Storm Water	7
7	Waste Tire	
8	Childhood Lead	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>
	<b>Class Attendance</b>	
1	Food Safety Education (Food School)	
2	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	
3	“How To Get A Green Placard For Food Inspection” Workshop	
	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</b>	
1	Abandoned Wells	42
2	Hazardous Materials Business Plans	477
3	Body Art	3
4	Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells	96
5	Food Facilities	106
6	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	110
7	Underground Storage Tanks - Includes Removals, Installations, Upgrades and Repairs	10
8	Land Use	6
9	Local Oversight Program	3
10	Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	1117
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1970</b>
	<b>Information Management</b>	
1	Document Pages Imaged	11955
	Public records are accessed online	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11955</b>