



California Environmental Health Bulletin

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Excerpts from the 52nd AES in Napa
 (The following articles are based on presentations from the AES)



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52nd AES: Unity in Action Prevails in the Napa Valley

By Karmi Ferguson, CEHA Executive Director

In the true spirit of volunteerism, the 52nd CEHA Annual Educational Symposium (AES) was a great success, a credit to the hard-working leadership and members of the Redwood Chapter. Chaired by Carolyn Hawkins, Humboldt County, and Greg Pirie, Napa County, the AES was held on April 1 – 4, 2003 at the Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa and attracted nearly 350 environmental health professionals from around the country, representing a number of city, county and state agencies, private industry and academia.

Opening Session Keynote Speaker, Dr. Diana Bontá, Director of the California Department of Health Services, provided the audience with an overview of issues that the Department is now focused on including the West Nile virus, small pox, bioterrorism and SARS. She also expressed concern over the state's current budget crisis and its impact on the Department's ability to prepare, train and respond to the plethora of health related incidences in our state. Dr. Bontá invited CEHA members to tour the Department's cutting-edge laboratory in Richmond and vowed to work as a partner with CEHA on improving the Registered Environmental Health Specialists program. Cynthia Barnard of Marin County commented, "Dr. Bontá's presentation was relevant, timely and well-received." CEHA was also honored to have the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) President, Jim Dingman, of Underwriters Laboratory, assist in opening the AES. He provided an



Jill Pahl, Dr. Diana Bontá and Jim Dingman

overview of the California contingent as the historical foundation of NEHA.

Other keynote speakers included Dr. Hugh Mainzer, Medical Epidemiologist and Commander

USPHS, Environmental Health Services Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and CEHA's own traveling seminar presenter, Bruce Anderson. Anderson conducted a highly charged mock hostage situation providing the audience with critical thinking techniques and tips on how to strategically outsmart a captor. "To call Bruce Anderson's presentation 'dynamic' would be an understatement!" observed Mark Janofsky of Marin County. David Gifford, Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Health

presented a historical overview of key events of the past centuries that have helped shape environmental health disciplines. This included discoveries and social changes such



Dr. Hugh Mainzer and Jill Pahl

as vaccines, pasteurization, reliable refrigeration, more efficient transportation, and their cumulative effect on public health and the prevention of epidemics.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By *Turonda R. Crumpler*,
2003-2004
CEHA President

Hello. I wish to extend a hearty welcome to the new and returning Board of Directors, Executive Committee and all CEHA members. This year we have such an array of talent on the Board. One Board member produces public

service announcements on environmental health; the purpose which is to develop open communication with the media, other members possess a background in computers, food safety, hazardous materials and/or land use, management and the broad fields of environmental health. With such a diverse, talented and knowledgeable group, CEHA is well rounded and ready to serve its entire membership.

Which brings me to this message. Have you ever wondered how you entered the field of environmental health? It was just four years ago that I was the Southern Chapter president-elect, and ten years back or longer I was on the Central Chapter board for a time period. In both cases, I thought I'd do my stint at the local chapter and then just become a regular member – a member with no responsibilities except to attend education events when I wanted to, meet and mingle with work professionals when I choose to and develop meaningful working relationships (if I felt up to it) and maybe even gather a few friends along the way.

Fast forward – WHAT HAPPENED? I am now the President of the California Environmental Health Association. I had the best intentions of disappearing into the abyss of membership, renewing every year, but letting someone else shoulder the responsibility of the REHS professional development, and guiding my choices. Where did I go wrong? The more positive question is WHAT IS CEHA DOING RIGHT?

Well for starters, CEHA provides a forum for professional development. There is the Annual Educational Symposium (AES), bi-annual regional Update conferences, the CEHA Traveling Seminar Series, and at the Chapter level monthly educational topics and a variety of social activi-

ties (let's face it, all work and no play is boring, at least to me). Additionally, by participating in CEHA, one increases public speaking, legislative review familiarity, team-building and communication skills.

The CEHA Board of Directors thinks about the organization and plans, based on our past, present and future. By looking at the past we see where we have been and which bridges not to cross. In the present we assess our current position to know here we are, and then analyze the future to chart a course in a positive direction. Over the last 11 years or so, CEHA has conducted strategic analyses, hired an executive director, and provided strategic leadership workshops for the Board, all in an effort provide to better service to the membership.

The future of CEHA is very much dependent on its members, and this year it is more critical than ever to have a strong membership of people devoted to the profession of environmental health. The REHS program and environmental health profession is becoming more encroached upon. Over the past years, environmental programs and tasks routinely conducted by Registered Environmental Health Specialist are now performed and managed by a wide variety of other professional and semi skilled personnel. CEHA members are primarily Registered Environmental Health Specialists.

In an effort to protect the profession, (Note: Registered Environmental Health Specialist is a license created by the state legislature) CEHA Board of Directors and members, in an attempt to curtail further impingement of the environmental health profession, are actively participating in the REHS strategic planning process and other committees associated with environmental health issues. CEHA also provides comments to public notices, that may hinder the work of those in the environmental health field, and supports legislation that strengthens the environmental health profession. Already this year a letter, objecting to the proposed regulatory definition of "professional geologic work" was sent to the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The definition would mean work currently conducted by an REHS in the areas of land use solid waste, etc., would be deemed an illegal practice of geology. A member of CEHA brought this matter to the attention of the Board.

Seeking Applications for the EHSRC

The Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee (EHSRC) is an advisory board to the Department of Health Services (DHS) concerning the Registration program. CEHA has a representative on the Board along with the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, California Conference of Local Health Officers, members from the public, academia, the Legislature, and private industry. There is legislation for the REHS Program that includes the duties and responsibilities of the EHSRC. You can view this legislation on the CEHA website at www.ceha.org under REHS.

The EHSRC meets irregularly, but at least semi-annually. In addition, subcommittees cover topics such as accredited universities review and training plans. Full committee expenses are covered by DHS, but volunteer time for subcommittees and other related work is expected. CEHA currently does not provide any compensation except for our true gratitude and the knowledge that you are doing what's best for the profession. You will also be required to submit a written report on EHSRC activities and actions to the CEHA Board at least two weeks prior to each Board meeting. At times, you may be asked to attend a CEHA Board meeting with travel expenses paid for by CEHA.

With the pending changes in the REHS Program, this is a crucial time for involvement in CEHA and EHSRC as participation is a key point of input into the pending changes. If you are interested in serving on the EHSRC please submit a resume with a cover letter describing such items as what you will bring to the committee, the resources you have to commit, your prior service with CEHA and your understanding of the issues at hand including the committee's current role in the Registration process. All applications are to be submitted to your CEHA Chapter President by July 11, 2003. The applicant will be selected at the July 26, 2003 CEHA Board meeting in Pasadena. Upon receipt of CEHA's recommendation for appointment, DHS approval will also be required before the term commences.

If you have any further questions about the EHSRC, you may contact Past President, Jill Pabl, at (707) 253-4410 or email at jpabl@co.napa.ca.us.

See President on page 5

Continued from Cover

The first day of educational programs included three day-long, in-depth seminars on the topics of Bioterrorism for Public Health Professionals, Groundwater Well Drilling, and Tech-to-Tasting, a tour of a landfill, compost facility and winery. The following days offered conference attendees 45 technical sessions throughout the AES organized in topic tracks that covered food safety, water quality, housing, liquid and solid waste, international environmental health, plan check, vector control, consumer protection, disaster preparedness, land use and recreational health. Sessions also covered general environmental health concerns and environmental health management.



Breakout Session

hit home with all the housing inspectors who attended.” Another popular session was, Promoting Body Art Safety, a live demonstration of permanent cosmetic applications. Peter Esko of the California Emerging Infections Program

commented, “I should not have been surprised to learn how little I knew about the subject of air curtains. An afternoon technical session by Dana Agens of Mars Air Doors gave me information that I took



Mamerto Jorvina, Vicki Everly and Don Goms

back and used at my next Food Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Most astounding was the news that most air doors are not designed or rated for insect control, a common misconception among food safety regulators.”

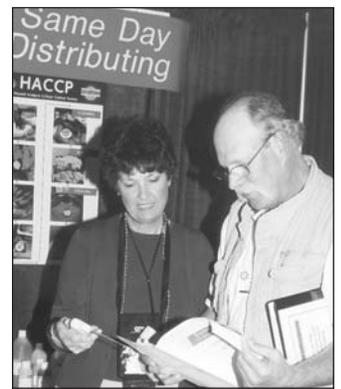
In all, the evaluations returned by conference attendees rated most sessions as good or excellent with comments that included, “WOW!” “Bring this speaker back.” and “Very informative.”



Mike Phillips from the U.K. and Julie DeGraw

Complementing the wide array of education offerings was the annual trade show featuring cutting-edge products and services from CEHA Corporate Members and other

business and industry representatives. Forty exhibitors displayed their wares and CEHA Corporate Members participated in the “What is New” (WIN)



Sue Hicks of Same Day Distributing

presentations that provided listeners with advanced information. “As Exhibits Chair, I had a chance to get to know many of our exhibitors. I was impressed by the extent of their knowledge, passion for their products and depth of background,” commented Mike Treinen, retired REHS, formally with Sonoma County.



Ken Krall of Kenkut

Lively networking opportunities included the Exhibitor’s Opening Reception hosted by Decade Software and another reception the following day co-

hosted by Western Exterminator Company and NSF International. Many thanks as well to Experior Assessments, hosting a continental breakfast and to Mars Air Doors who has generously sponsored the program binders for the last several years.

The annual silent auction had spectacular donations this year and raised nearly \$2,000 for the Eric Foskett International Development Fund. Our gratitude to the auction gift contributors: The 2003 AES



Silent Auction



Body Art Demo

Josua Bernardo of Solano County remarked, “The presentation on Farm Worker Housing in Napa County was educational and motivational.

As a Napa Valley resident, I was disappointed to see how slowly the wine industry has moved to provide any type of housing for its seasonal employees.” Commenting on the session, Hoarding Syndrome: A Mental and Environmental Health Problem, Patrick Rodriguez also of Solano County states, “Dr. Mary Flett had a standing room only audience. The feedback I got was that it



Jan Krancher, Hassan Golbad, Massoud Haghighi, and Behzad Saleh

Continued from previous page



Doug Campbell of Expor Assessments

Committee, the 2004 AES Committee (Southern Chapter), Pasadena Visitors Bureau, CEHA Chapters of Citrus, Mission, Northern, Redwood, Southwest,

and Superior, and CEHA Corporate Members Same Day Distributing, Bord Na Mona, and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Northwestern Center. The annual dinner banquet and dance,



Alive Music Orchestra

An Evening in Napa Valley, featured the performance of Alive Music Orchestra, an 18-piece swing and jazz band. Our own Greg Pirie of Napa County played the trombone along with fellow band members throughout the night.

This year's event could not have been possible without the tremendous help and support of volunteers from the Redwood Chapter. AES Co-Chair, Carolyn Hawkins states, "I am honored to know and work with this group of people – fun, strong, hardworking and committed to the event as a creation. We certainly used the outline of past symposiums, but this group brought in new ideas and energy that left the 'Redwood' mark. We wanted this event to stand out – to be full of interesting and useful

information with nothing trite. And we wanted opportunities to relax into social and professional exchange amidst the heavy load of information. I think we achieved this in a big way."

The AES Committee was Comprised of the Following Volunteers:

Co-Chairs: Carolyn Hawkins, Humboldt County
Greg Pirie, Napa County

Finance & Registration: David Koppel, Mendocino County

Program: Brent Whitener, Humboldt County, Peter Esko, California Emerging Infections

Exhibits: Mike Treinen, Retired, formally of Sonoma County
Melissa St. John Harder, Mission Chapter

Promotions: Lisa Todd, Solano County

Local Arrangements: Stacey Harrington, Napa County, Mark Janofsky, Marin County

Audio/Visual: Darla Pimlott, Mendocino County, Roger Foote, Mendocino County

Program Binder: Cynthia Barnard, Marin County, Kim Withrow, Napa County



Carolyn Hawkins



Greg Pirie



Audio Visual Team

Special thanks to the many other volunteers including (but not limited to):

Bridgette Bankay, Josuwa Bernardo, Lisa Clark, Diane Eastman, Pete Lowman, Jim Ehlers, Cheryl Hawkins, Ed Megia, Jill Pahl, Craig Rivera, Pat Rodriguez, Soni Schulze, Christine Sosko and Tom Worley. The AES committee also thanks Marty Isom of Sonoma County for lending his photography skills and capturing a visual account of the 52nd AES, and Linda Gans of Santa Clara County for doing a very professional job of managing on-site registration.

President from page 3

CEHA can help to build a solid foundation for the environmental health profession. CEHA has a limitless horizon of success and opportunities with a strong membership – each individual taking responsibility for his/her professional growth and not leaving the job to someone else.

For the upcoming year, CEHA plans to continue working with the REHS strategic committee, issue comments on legislation that will impact the environmental health programs, and be visible at other environmental health forums in addition to bringing you the following educational opportunities:

- Traveling Seminars on Bio-terrorism Preparedness and Body Art Regulations
- Regional Update Conferences in Northern & Southern California
- Annual Educational Symposium in Pasadena, March 30 – April 2, 2004
- Local Chapter Activities

I look forward to the upcoming year and working with the Board and members of this organization. CEHA will continue to serve its members and further the environmental health profession.

Building Environmental Health Capacity:

Honduras Poli-valent Environmental Health Technicians



By Dennis Kalson

Facing steadily increasing levels of infectious disease, the Minister of Health in Honduras decided in 1995 to completely reform the public health system. In his search for strategic direction in designing the

reform effort, the Minister sought assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), who identified a series of advisors and consultants from the ranks of Environmental Health in the USA to provide an “outsider’s perspective” to keep the effort on track. Working through Environmental Health Project II (EHP II), the author has served as a primary consultant to the USAID mission in Honduras since 1999.

As the reform efforts have reached the midway point, the strategy is already yielding remarkable results, and a strong, local environmental health system is quickly taking shape. With significant positive impacts on communities throughout the country, the Honduran approach to Environmental Health reform can be seen as a model or “best practice” suitable for replication in other Latin American countries. This paper summarizes some of the steps in the Honduran approach to Environmental Health reform.

THE VISION:

Key to the Honduran approach to improving disease control and prevention programs is a heavy emphasis on rebuilding its Environmental Health system, with a focus on strengthening overall environmental health capacity at the local level. The strategy is part of a nationwide movement to improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness through decentralization (or de-concentration) of public health services. In environmental health programs, the reform includes three major components:

- Intense training of local level Environmental Health Technicians or Tecnicos de Salud Ambiental (TSA) in

Spanish, responsible for providing an active community interface in multiple program areas of environmental health.

- Reorganization of environmental health services at central and regional levels of the Ministry of Health to improve integration of services and to reduce compartmentalization of programs.
- Building new lines of supervision for environmental health programs to improve support for TSAs at the operational level.

The Secretary of Health envisioned the TSA as a field technician capable of managing a full range of health problems related to the environment, of recognizing and responding to environmental health needs and defining and executing disease prevention activities involving inter-sectoral collaboration, local environmental health surveillance and community participation. The TSA fulfills essentially the same function as Environmental Health Specialists (Sanitaricians) fulfill in the United States, however, with a less formal, more practical education.

By integrating trained TSA into municipal services, the technicians become strong agents for influencing public health outcomes in their communities. They can assist municipalities in assessing and prioritizing environmental health risks, and can build solutions to the myriad of environmental health problems confronting communities. The new TSAs are well suited to dengue intervention since their work brings them in close contact with multiple segments of society facilitating integrated approaches through habitat control, popular practices, and community organization.

PINPOINTING THE PROBLEM:

The initial problem with the Environmental Health services in Honduras related to the highly compartmentalized, vertical structure for each of several local programs. Public health offices at the operational level included an army of field technicians, each working over a wide geographical area in one of six programs. The organizational structure was mirrored at the regional and central level of the Ministry of Health (MOH). There was little coordination between programs. And since each program maintained its own vertical structure for training, procurement, and support for the local specialist, the system was inefficient, expensive and duplicative.

In addressing the problem of inefficiency and inadequate coordination at the local level, the Health Ministry first proposed to develop a university degree program for Environmental Health Specialists, with the

goal of deploying these university trained technicians as leaders at the local or regional level. However, after attempting to build an in-depth curriculum, it was determined that the approach would be a costly, long-term strategy, requiring decades to fully implement. It was also determined that a university program would not effectively utilize the substantial training and expertise in the existing workforce of single program technicians.

That initial attempt led the MOH to focus instead on a training program to expand the skills of the most qualified technicians already working in single program areas. The Health Ministry also realized that organizational structural changes were needed at all levels of the environmental health system to provide full support for the technicians at the operational level.

The process additionally revealed the need to incorporate TSA into the local and regional management teams. Prior to initiating the TSA program, environmental health activities were supervised primarily by medical doctors in the Public Health system. While many of the MDs had general knowledge of environmental health strategies, their training and background placed great emphasis on clinical practice. In most Honduran Health Regions the result was a de-emphasis on environmental aspects of community health. By incorporating a strong Environmental Health Technician—or Tecnico de Salud Ambiental—into regional management, prospects for adequate support of environmental health activities are improved.

THE GOAL:

When fully realized, the environmental health system will include a total workforce of 700 TSAs (field workers and supervisors) who will operate at the local level under regional administrations. They will assume the responsibilities managed by 1400 single-program technicians in the current system. It is anticipated that one TSA can meet the needs of approximately 10,000 residents. To date, 300 Technicians have completed training and 120 are enrolled in advanced training to fulfill supervisory functions.

In addition to the development of a broad environmental health training program, the Honduran Secretary of Health has implemented organizational change to improve support, supervision and technical assistance for the efficient delivery of local environmental health services. The re-organization includes the creation of a Department of Environmental Health in

See Honduras on next page 8

A Tribute to Martin & Juliette Smilo

By Carolyn Hawkins

The 51st California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) Annual Educational Symposium / 7th World Congress on Environmental Health was held in San Diego, California in May 2002. At the luncheon where CEHA awards and scholarships were presented, a special announcement was made: CEHA had been gifted with a donation of \$100,000. It came with the stipulation that the donation be held in principle, and the interest on the money be awarded annually as scholarships. In addition, the donation and the identity of the donor were to be kept secret until CEHA presented the first two scholarships.

The donor was in the audience. She had worked closely with CEHA Treasurer, David Koppel, over the previous year to complete the transaction. Not only was the donation and the identity of the donor kept from the CEHA General Membership, it was also kept from the donor's business partner, lifetime love, and husband, Martin Smilo, in whose name and in whose honor Juliette Smilo provided the donation. David recalls, "Juliette was an intelligent, loving, and really sweet person. She so much wanted this donation and scholarship to be a surprise to Martin." She chided me more than once, Koppel continues, "Do not call before 10:00 in the morning... when Martin leaves for work."

Juliette succeeded in honoring Martin (a CEHA member and supporter for decades) with a scholarship fund bearing his name. Juliette honored CEHA as well by choosing our association to be the recipient of her very generous donation with which we expect to be able to provide two \$2500 scholarships annually to undergraduate students in the study of the sciences. The unveiling of the Martin Smilo Undergraduate Scholarship Fund was an emotional experience; Martin was duly surprised and moved that Juliette had honored him in this way.



Juliette Smilo being honored at the 2002 AES and World Congress in San Diego

After being discharged from the United States Navy on December 31, 1945, Martin called home from San Diego to his family in Michigan. Given the reminder of blowing snow, treacherous roads, and below-freezing temperatures (a typical Michigan winter), he opted to remain in southern California and relocated to Los Angeles where he entered the business of trading in surplus military items. Once the market for military surplus waned, Martin turned to surplus electronics and found a great bargain on blowers that IBM no longer needed to cool their early computers. Unconcerned with the exact quantity, he contracted with IBM to purchase all they had and he wound up with nearly 15,000 blowers.

After selling many of them in the Los Angeles area, he still had thousands of them in storage with dwindling prospects for sales.

Martin dreamed one night that he visited his grandfather's farm and sat down with the family to eat outside, as is the

summertime custom of Midwesterners. When Martin was a young boy growing up in Detroit, he dreaded the required visits to his grandfather's farm because of the oppressive numbers of pestiferous, biting horseflies. In his dream, he sat down at the picnic table expecting to be mutilated by them as usual. But to his surprise, there were no flies vying for his fried chicken, potato salad and corn-on-the-cob because his clever grandfather had set up a fan nearby and the strong breeze kept the flies away! Martin thought this dream theory deserved some validation and he knew that flies were an enormous problem at slaughterhouses and meat-packing plants where he and his father regularly collected tallow for his father's soap-making business. Martin took one of his fans to an LA meat-packer, and asked if he could install it above the door to see how it would work to reduce the fly population inside the meat-packing house. "How much do you

See Smilo on page 15

A Decades Old Suction Hazard Becomes History



By Ron Schroader

Swimming pool, spa and hot tub drain hazards have plagued the swimming pool and spa industry for over three decades. For just as many years, pool industry leaders have pondered the causes and solutions for this problem.

The National Spa & Pool Institute (NSPI) has documented entrapment testing as far back as 1974 after a drowning occurred in which the victim was suctioned to the main drain of a swimming pool. In June 1974, the NSPI shared their results with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and requested the CPSC to issue a press release regarding drain-related hazards in our pool and spa waters. The NSPI redoubled their efforts in December 1976 after the death of a nine-year-old Orange County, California child in a similar incident.

Numerous deaths have been attributed to main drain suction entrapment. Unfortunately, poor record keeping has made the statistical numbers appear lower than they are in actuality. In most aquatic accident cases the victim is lying on the spa or pool deck and the EMS team on site are treating the patient for a drowning and are not concerned with the exact cause of the incident – they are focused on saving the life of the patient.

In 1998, Kelsey LaRayne Ruwe was entrapped at a community pool and subsequently died. In talking with her mother, the EMS paramedic on-site and one of the young lifeguards on duty, I realized and felt the hurt and loss from suction entrapment deaths. Since that day, I have dedicated my career to ending these horrible events.

The year 2000 was a very sad year for the families of four Florida children. One family lost their child as a result of hair entanglement; the other three children were limb entrapped. Two of those three children died. The other child lived, although he remains in a coma.

See Suction on page 14

Honduras from page 6

the central levels of the Secretariat, which places all Environmental Health programs within a single department under a single administration, rather than in multiple departments responding to various directors with divergent priorities.

To improve lines of supervision, the Secretary of Health has developed additional training for advanced TSA to assume roles as mid-level managers. As members of the regional management team, the TSA managers will strengthen coordination and support for environmental health technicians in the field. Regional TSA coordinators also serve on a national technical advisory committee to assist the central levels of the Secretariat in defining program needs and direction.

Oversight and evaluation of the entire system is provided by highly trained program specialists at the Central Level. To facilitate local program goal setting (and program evaluation) each program chief is responsible for developing a series of environmental health indicators which can serve as measures of program effectiveness. The central level program specialists are also responsible for providing technical assistance and training to regional and local staff.

THE PROCESS:

With the help of a USAID liaison to facilitate the process, to overcome institutional obstacles and to monitor progress, the reform will convert a workforce of 1400 single-program field technicians in nine health regions into 700 environmental health generalists through training and field practice. The training program includes a 15-week course covering 12 environmental health modules ranging from food sanitation, garbage management, and drinking water quality, to wastewater management, rabies prevention and vector control. Training topics also include legal aspects of environmental health, basic risk assessment and social mobilization. Modules were prepared by and are taught by highly qualified program specialists from the central level of the Secretary of Health. At least 4 courses are offered each year at locations convenient to Health Regions and include 35 to 40 students.

In addition to classroom training, the TSAs are required to complete eight months of on-the-job practice, and must complete a field project or thesis within their assigned community. The field thesis begins with an in-depth environmental health assessment (diagnostico) of the community to which the TSA is assigned. At the end of the eight

month field practice, the candidate must present their field thesis to a panel of instructors from the training course before becoming a fully credentialed TSA.

To capitalize on existing human resources, TSAs were initially selected from the technical workforce of local program specialists. Those who failed to meet minimum qualifications were allowed to continue their employment as Environmental Health Aides assisting in implementation of EH priorities identified by the new TSA.

Concurrent with the training program, the Secretary of Health initiated organizational changes to consolidate all programs related to environmental health within a single department under the Director General of Environmental Health and Regulation. The move has elevated the emphasis given to environmental health services within the Secretary of Health, and has improved coordination among all environmental health programs.

SUSTAINABILITY:

As local environmental health capacity is integrated into municipalities through the development of competent TSAs, sustainability improves. Observations thus far in the effort (about mid-way) indicate that municipalities gradually assume a greater responsibility for managing their own environmental health conditions and reduce the heavy dependence on centralized services. Many communities have begun to assume a greater proportion of program costs as well.

Sustainability of public health programs in Latin America is often influenced by personnel changes occurring with each new administration. By building local environmental health capacity through qualified technicians with a clear set of minimum job requirements will help ensure program continuity and sustained competence even during periods of political change.

EVIDENCE THAT THE PRACTICE WORKS:

As of the closing months of 2002, nearly half of the Environmental Health technicians have completed training and are fulfilling their functions within communities. Already, there is ample evidence that the effort is having a major impact on environmental health conditions. Virtually all (300 to date) of the field thesis activities provide solid evidence that the strategy works. Below are listed three strong examples resulting from field projects under the TSA training program:

Guasaule border crossing project. As late as the first few months of 2002, the major border crossing between Nicaragua and Honduras at Guasaule presented a chaotic mix of textile vendors, trucks, trailers, food stands and home sites. Wastewater from a variety of sources flowed uncontrolled through rutted streets toward the adjacent river. Garbage and rubbish from makeshift commercial stands filled every ravine, every rut in the border district. After completing the TSA training course, the local TSA initiated a community risk assessment in cooperation with the Guasaule mayor and city council. At the suggestion of the TSA, the mayor tasked the community health committee with prioritizing problems and developing an intervention plan. With guidance from the TSA, the committee identified partners including the Honduran Customs Agency, the municipality, regional health officials, and the Honduran transportation agency to work on the priorities established through the Guasaule environmental health assessment. The result, through close inter-institutional cooperation, is dramatic.

- A 3-acre open garbage pile in the heart of the commercial strip has been graded, cleaned and filled, and now serves as a controlled parking area for trucks.
- Food vendors are now housed in enclosed structures in a single area near the truck parking area.
- Wastewater has been routed through an enclosed conveyance system to a common settling (primary treatment) chamber before discharge downstream of the community.
- A vendor's marketplace has been consolidated and relocated to a common area adjacent to the main highway.
- Ravines and ditches have been cleaned of garbage. A series of refuse bins (4 cubic yard) with regular collection have been strategically placed along the commercial strip to replace open dumps.

Viviendas Saludables (Healthy Homes), Choluteca. As part of an overall strategy to reduce *Aedes* breeding sites and other health hazards in the urban area of Choluteca, the TSA for Metro Choluteca initiated an inspection program for all households in his area. Working in cooperation with the municipality and with block leaders, the program publicizes basic norms for healthy homes. The TSA and EH aides for the district then complete sanitary inspections for each home to assist resi-

Continued from previous page

dents in identifying hazards such as mosquito breeding sites, indoor air pollution from un-vented charcoal stoves, and inappropriate wastewater or garbage disposal. The inspection provides a valuable opportunity for public education in dengue control while identifying other environmental health hazards. The inspection is followed by a return visit to ensure correction when hazards are identified. The program is backed by a municipal code providing for enforcement fines for recalcitrant homeowners who refuse to correct or manage major hazards associated with households.

Mercado Saludable (Healthy Marketplace) Ocotepeque. Prior to assigning a TSA to the central area of Ocotepeque, sanitary conditions in the market were described as “disastrous” by public health officials. A field assessment by the TSA noted numerous direct contamination hazards to fresh foods which were sold from displays in direct contact with the floor. Domestic cats and dogs roamed freely throughout food sales areas, and there were large accumulations of debris throughout the market from trimmed vegetables and meats, making rodent control impossible. The only facilities for handwashing or equipment washing for food vendors and meat cutters were poorly maintained buckets at random locations within food vending areas.

In addressing the problem (as part of his field thesis), the TSA organized a sanitation

committee from among the food vendors, and enlisted the cooperation of the Ocotepeque Mayor. With help from the local bank and several NGO’s, the market constructed tables, installed central facilities with running water for handwashing, built screened stalls for meat vendors, and excluded domestic animals from the marketplace. Protocols established by the sanitation committee call for daily washing of the floor in the market, and removal of food trimmings at frequent intervals. The municipality provides daily collection of wastes. The market has become a point of pride for the community. Because of increases in business, the market now in the process of expanding to make room for new vendors.

NEXT STEPS:

Field observations and interviews with TSAs in each of the nine health regions have shown that successes similar to those noted above have been repeated in communities all across Honduras. And while the system is beginning to yield strong results, much remains to be accomplished in terms of supervision and oversight of the new Environmental Health system to ensure its sustainability and continued development.

Health Officials at the central level are in the process of establishing evaluation criteria based on environmental health indicators and minimum standards for each major program. Once accepted, those indi-

cators will serve as a basis for evaluation and validation of local programs.

The Environmental Health Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in Honduras has been charged with the task of developing job descriptions for entry level TSAs who may be recruited from outside the public health system as trainees. In addition, the TAC will plan for a future career ladder for those environmental health technicians as they increase their skills. Finally, the TAC in cooperation with national EH program leaders, is in the process of developing a field manual for TSAs which will outline basic field procedures and techniques for use by Technicians in the course of their work.

Author’s Post Script: During the last consultant visit in October, 2002, many of the new TSAs expressed interest in developing a professional partnership with environmental health organizations such as CEHA or NEHA to share experiences and build mutual learning opportunities. This enthusiasm could represent a great opportunity to readers of this Bulletin to advance the cause of global environmental health by extending a warm hand of professional support and welcome to a very eager Honduran environmental health community. Readers may express their interest by contacting Dennis Kalson, REHS at (707) 579-4034 or demiskalson@aol.com. Additional internet reference: www.EHProject/publications/activityreports/#66

State of California Onsite Regulations: AB 885 Panel Discussion “Where Are We now”



By Richard Wilson

Representatives from government, industry, real estate, environmental groups, EPA and education have worked together during the past two years to draft new statewide regulations for the installation and

operation of onsite sewage treatment systems in California as required by AB 885. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality, under the project leadership of Todd Thompson PE, after a series of stakeholder

and technical committee meetings, have produced the existing document. After review and comments by the interested parties, the environmental impact review process will begin soon. Interested parties, including CEHA, CCDEH, and COWA were part of a panel discussion to answer questions and provide an update of their participation. They have requested changes and modifications to the regulations.

A discussion of the status of AB 885 was a panel session at the 52nd AES in Napa. The panel included Tibor Banathy REHS, California Wastewater Training & Research Center, Chico State University, Engineering Program; Norm Hantsche PE, CEO/Principal Questa Engineering, COWA Board of Directors; Terry Schmidtbauer REHS, CCDEH Onsite Wastewater TAC Chair, Solano County Environmental Health, CEHA Representative; Ken Stuart REHS, MS, Director Contra Costa County Environmental Health, Chairman, CCDEH Land Use Committee; and Todd Thompson PE, AB 885 Project Leader, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board.

Todd Thompson presented the AB 885 rule development process and the panelists explained their role and their organization’s role in the process. Terry Schmidtbauer explained CEHA’s role in the process. CEHA was well represented on the stakeholders group by Ron Torres, former CEHA President, and Richard Wilson, and on the Technical Advisory group by Terry and Ted Walker. The process involved facilitated meetings of both groups individually by a professional facilitation company including a graphic recorder.

The seven key requirements of the regulations to be established by this process included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Minimal operating requirements that may include siting, construction.
- Requirements for onsite sewage treatment systems adjacent to impaired waters identified pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

See AB 885 on page 18

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Pressure Distribution System Design Using Plastic Chamber Technology



By Jan Krancher

After more than 50 years, the use of chamber technology for wastewater disposal is certainly no longer experimental. What began as a family enterprise

has now matured to meet the needs of alternative systems in a wide variety of situations around the nation. While the basic concept is well established, new materials, innovative design improvements and recent attention to performance based standards brings new challenges for the onsite industry.

Cultec, Inc.'s founder has worked since the early 1950's in the manufacture, design and installation of precast tanks and leaching galleries for leachate and drainage systems in Connecticut. Cultec, Inc., a family business, was established in the late 1980's to introduce a new plastic chamber product line being lightweight, durable and easy to install. After many years of research and design, a system evolved based on this new technology. Chamber systems have long been recognized as a viable alternative in EPA design manual, the California UPC and have been certified by IAPMO.

The EPA estimates that 750,000 chamber systems have been installed nationwide over the past 15 years. These units are found in single residences, in multi-home-use cluster systems, and in commercial/industrial applications. They are frequently used for replacement of failing conventional gravel systems.

This article discusses an appropriate, relatively low tech, yet unique wastewater disposal design. Cultec pioneered manufacturing a chamber system that facilitates an improved contact, treatment and infiltrative capability of septic effluent through PVC pipe, and using a specific non-woven geotextile filter fabric having certain characteristics. A performance evaluation at a large hospital is highlighted.

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

There are three ways effluent is discharged into and/or onto these chambers. The first method is direct introduction into the chamber through an invert opening on the end wall. Second, a PVC pipe is suspended inside the chamber and finally, the pipe is positioned and secured on top of the chamber. Two variants of the latter are offered; gravity feed and pressure distribution, the PDS design.

Using the PDS system, four-inch perforated pipe is strapped down on top of the chamber and covered with a Cultec geotextile filter fabric. The suspended solids settle out on the outside between the fabric and the sidewall bottom, promoting evapotranspiration through its upper surface. Effluent contact surface area over the chamber solid surface is thus dramatically increased. In situations utilizing pressure distribution in the PDS design, typically, one and one quarter to two inches pressure pipe is used.

To effectively rate chamber sidewall infiltrative capacity, a sum total of the entire wetted sidewall and upper perimeter needs to be calculated. Through the "wicking effect," these fabric-covered chambers allow and ultimately complete wetting of the entire outside perimeter by direct contact of fabric and effluent. The vertical ribbed design of the chamber in combination with the sidewall perforations between the ribs provide an egress of effluent.

Contact of effluent with the specified Cultec No. 410-filter fabric promotes a higher percentage of effective leaching area in reference to sidewall than is available by conventional pipe and stone systems. This ribbed design is unique to Cultec septic chambers and its performance demonstrated merely covering other types of chambers with a geotextile does not yield the same high degree of efficiency. Contact area of effluent-fabric-soil is rated at 100 percent.

CULTEC PLASTIC CHAMBERS

The ribbed chambers are constructed of high density/high molecular weight polyethylene. The material remains resilient in temperatures below -100 degree F and is resistant to chemicals typically found in sewage. Chambers are connected utilizing a unique patented overlapping rib design.

Cultec was the first to offer upper surface evaporative capability. The combination of the ribbed design, the spacing between the ribs and filter fabric promotes

effective infiltration on sidewalls and tops. The company consistently promotes this effective, integrated and unitized two-part system — its hallmark. Effluent is not discharged directly onto the soil base. It finds its way through drilled holes in the sidewalls, by way of voids at the base, and through chamber connection points. The total drainage interface averages more than 60 percent higher than a conventional pipe and gravel system of comparable size while the storage capacity is increased by 100 percent.

GEOTEXTILE FILTER FABRIC

The apparent opening size of Cultec 410-filter fabric is 70 US Sieve. It is needle punched with hundreds of small holes per square foot. This allows smaller particles to pass through to the interface soil backfill, enhancing the infiltrative capacity and effective leaching area (ELA.) Good permeability and the bridging of the particles during the filtering process system are superior to the best soil type. The fabric does not impede the system's overall performance. The limiting factor for drainage is the soil type, not the fabric.

The fabric effectively performs two important functions. One is that it provides an effective barrier to soil particulate intrusion that neither louvered chamber sides nor gravel can offer. Secondly, the barrier stabilizes the soil interface thus preventing the fines from entering the chamber's primary leaching area by migration of outside soil particles. If introduced, these particles are the most common cause of system failure. Exfiltration, the pulling out of the finer particles during the receding tide of infiltration is prevented using Cultec No. 410 fabric.

Several physical and hydraulic properties make Cultec's specified fabric unique. The tear strength, grab tensile elongation and Mullen burst strength, among other characteristics, are remarkable. Even if a section is somehow cut or punctured, it is not likely to tear, burst or spread. It has maximum elongation strength of approximately 50 percent. These two factors alone result in an excellent material that will span the voids between the ribs of the chamber, creating an open "effluent tunnel."

PEMBROKE HOSPITAL CASE

The efficacy of Cultec PDS design utilizing approximately 760 Contactor 125 chambers was confirmed on a large scale, as evidenced by the data collected during an evaluation at the Pembroke Hospital in East Pembroke, Massachusetts. Installation

See Chamber on next page

Chamber from previous page

was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and will be subject to on-going review. The theory of the PDS design was thoroughly discussed with Mr. Mark Bartlett, PE, currently a principal with Norfolk Ram Engineering. He coordinated the complete system inspection and invited Cultec to participate.

The evaluation was conducted on December 5, 2001 and then installed in the fall of 1996. The design criterion was recommended at 14 kgal/day, significant biological as well as hydraulic loading rates. Dual Bioclear units were in place at a nearby lift station, utilizing alternating pumps.

The objective of the installation was to augment basic pressure distribution to optimize contact, treatment and infiltrative potential. Two separate observation/inspection locations were used. The primary interest in the complete system inspection was to document the performance of Cultec's recommendations, but many other operational parameters were also recorded.

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES WERE TAKEN AND SALIENT POINTS NOTED:

1. A small excavation exposed the top of the fabric covering the pressure pipe. The clean backfill surrounding the upper level of the chamber was dry. Approximately five to six inches from the chamber base, soil dampness was apparent, ostensibly the "high water mark." Some coarse sandy particles clung to the wetted fabric but did not completely cover the fabric, only an estimated twenty-five to thirty percent. At about three and one half inches from the base, effluent saturated the soil horizon. The condition of the fabric interface were excellent as soil dropped off from the inclined fabric. No odor was detected from the effluent indicating a high level of treatment had taken place.
2. A section of the fabric, approximately twelve inches up from the base by ten inches wide, was cut away from the sidewall and inspected. At the base of the fabric, biomat, approximately one thirty second inch thick was observed. It faded to nonexistence at between two and one half to three inches above the chamber base. Feathery clumps of biological matter was also observed, approximately one to one and one half inches by three quarter to two inches long, floating independently. Matter was concentrated near the walls and inward to within two inches. Inside this detailed area, clean effluent afforded an unobstructed view of the clear sandy bottom.

3. Effluent was visibly receding. A section of the plastic chamber, approximately eight inches square, was removed with a reciprocating saw to view inside the system itself. A biological film was observed, both inside and outside the chamber. It was heavier at the base and fading to clean up to a height of between two and one half to three inches, similar to that evidenced on the fabric filter. Looking into the chamber with a flashlight, it was evident that the primary interface of the soil at the base was clean. Floating clumps of biomat were only observed near the outside wall in concentrations similar to that outside the chamber between the fabric. The extension of the feathering biomat inward towards the center of the units was less than two inches. Looking through at the water base was analogous to looking at a clean water stream bottom. The level of the effluent in the chamber receded three quarters of an inch after 35 minutes through infiltration.

4. Several other interesting facts were discovered. The two pumps, part of a mechanical aeration and media treatment circulation system, were not in operation for an indeterminate period of time, estimated to be several months. It also appeared that the effluent discharged was in excess of 14 kgal/day, the established design criteria. It could even conceivably have been in excess of 20 kgal/day on occasion. Settlement of effluent inside the chamber was greater than one inch in one and one half-hours, the equivalent of 6 kgal with continuous percolation action apparent.

DISCUSSION

Using specified Cultec fabric in combination with Cultec Contactor chambers and annular rib design significantly increased the ELA of the base using the PDS design. The effluent eventually filtered into the inside of the chamber open bottom through the holes in the sidewalls. Biological treatment was taking place where the liquid came in contact with the biofilm upon the chamber surfaces and also at the biomat at the outside base, facilitating air and moisture exchange.

Storage capacity was increased providing time for proper infiltration. One of the advantages of the fabric was the stabilization of the soil horizon outside the chamber, retarding migration of finer soil particles as effluent containing suspended solids was delivered to the fabric. An unstabilized soil horizon allows smaller particles to gravitate towards the sidewall interface and ultimately into the chamber itself. Overall contact, treatment and infiltrative capacity was enhanced.

CONCLUSION

During the performance evaluation of the PDS design at the Pembroke Hospital, it was concluded that the system appeared to be operating as designed and intended:

1. The Cultec 410 fabric interface stabilized the soil horizon effectively holding finer particles in place within the soil while also providing a viable, effective effluent soil interface.
2. The concentration of biomat occurs at the base of the outside wall. There was also formation of biological film upon or near the sidewall base, both inside and outside, and at the base of the fabric interface.
3. Cleaner effluent was evident in the primary base interface inside the chamber.
4. The fabric was capable of wicking effluent two to three inches above the effluent operational level.

It is evident that Cultec has developed an appropriate approach to wastewater using the PDS design and using chamber technology that minimizes risk to human health and the environment. Undecided regulatory agencies are encouraged to seriously review the available data. It is anticipated that they will ultimately accept and approve the PDS design, with size reduction, even in smaller applications, that will benefit the public at large as well as continue to provide protection to the environment.

Jan A. Krancher is the Technical Specialist for Cultec, Inc. onsite wastewater products. He is a California Registered Environmental Health Specialist with a post graduate degree in Health Science. He has 30 years of experience in the specialty of environmental health, while employed by California State and County government in the San Joaquin Valley.

Community Outreach – The Human Side of Public Health



Any Environmental Health Specialist worth his or her salt will tell you that education is a vital component of the regulatory process. Ask anyone who has ever inspected a restaurant, or anyone who

has issued a permit for repair or replacement of a failing sewage disposal system, how vital it is to educate and inform while conducting routine inspections and enforcement.

In the early years and through much of the '70s, most medium and large sized health departments had a number of "health educator" positions in environmental health. Unfortunately, these were the first programs to be cut during tough financial times. The cuts were particularly easy since the education component of environmental health does not lend itself to being a "fee-for-service" program, nor are the results of education and prevention as readily quantifiable, as say the number of inspections performed. The reality is that not all environmental health responsibilities can be accommodated within a regulatory, enforcement, or fee-for-service framework. Education and outreach programs are vital and can be funded through a variety of sources, including realignment funds (DMV fees), transient tax money, grants, etc.

Through the wisdom and foresight of the Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County is in the process of developing a Community Outreach program. This education / information link is vital to the health and well-being of both citizens and government. The development of a Community Outreach program in Sonoma County serves a decade old gap in environmental health management, bringing agencies and communities together in partnership.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS PROVIDE:

- Vital health risk information and risk reduction strategies to communities at risk, such as those with contaminated groundwater

- Educational and informational community meetings on a variety of "hot" topics such as mold, SARS, and bioterrorism
- Education and resources for health care providers and the medical community who are often unfamiliar with potential health effects from environmental hazards (contaminated groundwater, pesticides, etc.)
- Informational literature on public health issues for the community
- A human life preserver to people entangled within the maze of government.

COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- TRUST
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Collaboration
- Information
- Evaluation
- Resource

Without trust, none of the other components can be successful. During any environmental risk event, people want to trust and they want something or someone to believe in. Even if there are no easy answers, trust can be established by empowering individuals with all available knowledge of the issue at hand, allowing them to make decisions with regard to their own risk and allowing them to gain some control over their own lives.

When an individual chooses to take a risk in daily life, such as bungee jumping, the person still feels "in control" because they made a conscious choice to take the risk and experience the adrenaline rush. However, when an unanticipated risk is forced upon a person, such as discovering that their drinking water is contaminated with substances that may have long-term and serious health effects, the fear factor rises dramatically. Individuals feel that they have no control over something that is "done to them" and they often experience extreme emotional reactions and a sense of loss of control as a result of their fear of the unknown. Arming citizens with information empowers them to feel that at least in a small measure, they have some control and can make informed choices.

Trust can also be engendered with door-to-door contact or at least by sending a letter that gives them the name and phone number of "a real human being" along with health effects information about the environmental hazard that is a threat to their well-being. This "human being" can act as a resource for additional information and as a resource for assisting families in meeting whatever needs might arise as a result of the contamination. Whether or not this link is actually utilized, people are empowered by the knowledge that the human link exists, and a trusting relationship is established. Prompt and courteous follow-up of requests, even with "I'm sorry I don't have an answer for you" is critical if the trust is to be maintained. Even if you don't have any answers, nothing substitutes for honesty and human contact.

Trust can also be extended to form a collaborative, cooperative and coordinated inter-agency response among government agencies. Fostering this united front aids in reassurance to the public and avoids duplication or wasted effort on behalf of the agencies involved. With today's advanced electronic capabilities, distance is not a factor in holding regular stakeholder meetings in the face of an environmental incident. Intra-agency improvement can also be a benefit as a Community Outreach Specialist can serve as a resource for all programs within environmental or public health.

This type of collaborative, cooperative and coordinated effort is also useful in forming vital partnerships between public and private organizations. As one example, Sonoma County is forming a partnership with the American Lung Association Asthma Coalition as an avenue and financial resource to help fund education and outreach efforts to the medical community and to the public with regard to indoor air quality issues, specifically mold.

All Community Outreach actions must be based on the EPA's Precautionary Principle: that in the face of scientific uncertainty or lack of proof, but where health harm is suspected or possible, it is incumbent and prudent to take precautionary action. This precautionary principle has been widely utilized nationally with the current administration and has existed as the framework for public health in Europe for years. It is the foundation of any successful community outreach program. It means notifying people of a potential threat even in the absence of hard data. For example, a chemical con-

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tamination detection in groundwater at one sampling point should trigger notification to any nearby potentially impacted properties with domestic wells, even without confirmation of additional detections.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY OUTREACH?

- Knocking on doors to provide informational material
- Mailing information (health effects, risk reduction strategies, etc.) to communities
- Being present at or hosting public information meetings
- Providing health education outreach (mold, SARS, etc.)
- Attending cultural celebrations to provide information in other languages
- Developing age-appropriate presentations to schools about environmental issues
- Developing information handouts about wells, water quality, sewage disposal systems, mold, etc. as general information for use during “non-events”

- Educating medical care providers on the recognition of environmentally induced illnesses and common hazards within a community
- Providing exposure history forms to people to give to their physicians that become part of their medical record

WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH?

- Fosters trust in government
- Reduces negative health effects of populations at potential risk
- Improves inter-agency and intra-agency cooperation, collaboration and communication
- Reduces negative or inaccurate media coverage

While none of these items independently may seem significant, the cumulative effect on a community can be impressive. Something as simple as a Community Outreach program can bridge that missing gap and form foundations for the best possible public health and relationship outcomes for citizens and government alike.

Laura Barnthouse is a REHS employed by Sonoma County Dept. of Health Services, Environmental Health Division, in the newly created position of Environmental Risk/Community Outreach Specialist. With almost 25 years experience working as a regulator in all areas of environmental health, she also teaches classes in food safety and SAT preparation workshops for high school students and was formerly resident editor of The Chester Progressive newspaper and a teacher at the junior/senior high school levels. She is a licensed continuing education provider in psychoneuroimmunology for the California Board of Registered Nurses. Laura received her BS in Biological Sciences from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, has a Doctor of Naturopathy degree from the Clayton School of Natural Healing, is a certified clinical hypnotherapist and a certified acupressure therapist and has received numerous commendations and meritorious service awards.

Suction from page 7

Hair entanglement is far and away the most common drain-related killer of children between the ages of two and six years. When bathers or swimmers place their heads in the vicinity of active pool drains, their hair may become entangled in the drain cover or grating. For the period between 1978-1996, the CPSC reports forty-nine entanglements (including thirteen deaths) where the victims heads were held under the water in spas, hot tubs, and whirlpools.

To date the CPSC recognizes three drain-related hazards: body entrapment, hair entrapment and evisceration. The NSPI acknowledges five: body entrapment, limb entrapment, hair entrapment, mechanical entrapment and evisceration. Triodyne Safety Systems, L.L.C. recognizes eight drain-related hazards. These include hair entanglement, finger entrapment, body entrapment, evisceration, environmental degradation, broken covers, missing covers, and grip it and rip it.

Triodyne has also made efforts since 2000 to prompt the CPSC to initiate a press release reflecting the eight known main drain-related hazards and recommending the use of anti-entanglement/anti-

entrapment-type drain covers as opposed to anti-vortex covers, which are hopelessly inadequate. To date, the CPSC has not issued any of the requested press releases and according to the “Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards Publication No. 363 009801,” still recommends the use of anti-vortex covers as “safety” covers despite the fact that there exists no written definition for the term “anti-vortex cover.”

It is obvious that we, as aquatic professionals, have to raise the bar for aquatic safety. A simple, cost effective answer is available to render suction outlets safer. At the time a pool is initially constructed, hydraulically balanced, multiple drains covered with anti-entrapment/anti-entanglement drain covers certified to ANSI/NSF 50 should be installed. The system should also be designed to comply with the certified safe flow rate of the drain covers. Under this scenario, most main drain suction entanglement/entrapment occurrences would be eradicated.

The CPSC does acknowledge a third layer of protection: the Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS). Being proactive may be easier than industry leaders have considered in the past.

The following components dramatically improve the safety of a pool:

- Multiple, hydraulically balanced drain sums (minimum: two)
- Anti-entanglement/anti-entrapment ANSI/NSF 50 certified main drain safety covers.
- A safe flow rate not exceeding that to which the parts are certified
- A Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)
- One final layer of protection: never leave a child unattended in or near the water. If we all work together to remedy this decades old group of aquatic suction hazards, we will end this terrible plague and our children will be able to enjoy their aquatic play grounds as they were intended – safely.

Thank you in advance for promoting main drain suction safety.

Ron Schroader is the Aquatic Safety Consultant for Triodyne Safety Systems, L.L.C., a Niles, IL based firm specializing in safety device design and development. Technical inquiries call (561) 309-9869

CCDEH COLUMN

By Mel Knight,
REHS

President, CCDEH



I enjoyed participating in the highly successful CEHA-AES in Napa. CCDEH took the opportunity to also hold the Spring Executive Committee meeting at the AES site and we were able to take action on some issues that may be of interest to CEHA members.

The CCDEH Executive Committee agreed to work with the CEHA President and the CEHA Executive Director on solidifying the ongoing support CCDEH provides for the CEHA-AES. Specifically, CCDEH is interested in providing financial and other support for special training opportunities at future AESs, and both CEHA and CCDEH will be establishing procedures to make sure this occurs.

Additionally, CCDEH was actively involved in the spirited panel discussion of the future of the REHS Registration pro-

gram. As every Director is an REHS, and local Environmental Health jurisdictions are the only employers that currently require registration, CCDEH has strong interest in preserving and enhancing this program. There are currently significant concerns that the growing fiscal crisis in State government will potentially jeopardize an already challenged program. CCDEH hopes that a strong initiative that has the joint support of CEHA, CCDEH, SDHS, academia, industry and other stakeholders can bring support for the program that will result in an even broader spectrum of services to the REHS community and the public.

There were two additional areas of activity by CCDEH committees that were highlighted at the AES: On-site waste disposal, and retail food safety.

Ken Stuart has been leading the CCDEH Land Use Committee and a broader Ad Hoc group in the process of developing on-site waste water regulations pursuant to AB 885. CEHA and other stakeholders have been working hard on this project for many months, and we hope to be nearing agree-

ment with the State Water Board. For additional information or a status update, please feel free to contact Ken Stuart in Contra Costa County.

Gary Erbeck has been leading the Food Policy Committee in the quest to adopt an updated California Food Code. This has also been a protracted process, with a wide array of participants and interested parties. Contact Gary in San Diego for specifics.

I will close this column by repeating my invitation for you to visit the CCDEH website (CCDEH.com) to find out more about the activities and projects of our group.

Mel Knight, REHS is the Director of Environmental Health for Sacramento County. He is the current President of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, a Past President of the National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators (NCLEHA), the California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) and two CEHA affiliate Chapters (Northern and Superior). CEHA has presented Mel with both the Stuart E. Richardson Sr. Award and the Vince Dunham Award.

Smilo from page 7

want?" the man asked. "Nothing, I just want to see if it works. If it works, I'll take \$15.00 for it." The fan worked wonderfully and the meat-packer traded \$15.00 for Martin's first "air door."

Martin thought he had a good product, an open market, and would make an astonishing profit if he sold his air doors for \$30.00 apiece. However, when he became frustrated at finding no one interested in his \$30.00 air door, his only buyer thus far suggested he make some changes in his marketing approach. The meat-packer suggested that Martin advertise his air door at the inflated price of \$100 in the three large circulation meat-packing trade magazines and see what happens. Martin did this and received 200 orders within the first day of publication and his air door business has grown steadily since then. Today at the Mars Air Doors 140,000 square foot Gardena plant, his 65 employees work hard to keep up with demand. They produce a variety of models to control flying insects, dirt and pollutants, to help maintain climate control and to reduce energy consumption at commercial establishments. He has some competitors now, he says, but his company is the largest and the most respected because it provides the best product of its kind in the world. Most of

Martin's products are used in the United States but he also supplies markets in Europe and Asia.

In 1965, a Los Angeles sanitarian named Don Gooden noted the effectiveness of the Mars Air Door and pointed Martin in the direction of some business owners whose facilities could benefit from his product. Following this gesture, Martin learned of CEHA and arranged to exhibit his products at the next annual educational symposium.

Having been divorced for a few years and thinking he hadn't done anything fun for awhile, Martin convinced a friend, also a divorced man, to go to a party one night. "That's where I met Julie, at that party, and we got married in 1967. My friend met a girl there and they got married! It was a pretty good party. Julie, she was beautiful..." Juliette became an integral part of Mars Air Doors, handling many aspects of the business over the years. Juliette was lively, organized, very fiscally savvy, hard-working and very proud of Martin and the business they sustained. Sadly, Juliette died very suddenly and unexpectedly of pneumonia on January 6, 2003. Juliette and Martin have two daughters and one son. She will be greatly missed by CEHA as she often attended the CEHA conferences with Martin.

For the past 38 years Mars Air Doors has been a corporate member of our association and has supported us further by exhibiting, sponsoring, and providing education and a welcome, reliable presence at our symposiums. With his representative Dana Agens, Martin was present at this year's AES in Napa, educating attendees on his products, visiting with old friends, meeting new ones, and supporting our association as he has done for decades. There is a tangible loss in the absence of Juliette this year. We are grateful, however, for Martin's presence – his friendly and generous personality, his wit, experience, and common sense, and the great story he carries. CEHA is grateful for the benefit that we can bring to others in honor of Martin and Juliette Smilo.

For more information on Mars Air Doors, see www.marsair.com or call 1-800-421-1266. For details on the Martin Smilo Undergraduate Scholarship Fund and to obtain a nominations package, contact the CEHA Awards Committee at 707-751-0301.

Carolyn Hawkins is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist working for the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health. She can be reached at chawkins@co.humboldt.ca.us

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Bio-terrorism - Why Environmental Health Professionals Should Be Concerned

By Ron Torres

Many think that the “victory” in Iraq is a prelude to unconventional warfare, where terrorism becomes the enemy’s only means of offense and chemical/biological agents become the weapons of choice, where an offensive strike could happen anywhere at anytime.

Our patented “shock and awe approach,” combined with our ability to perform surgical strikes on critical targets within urban areas using a Global Positioning System, is in sharp contrast to the asymmetrical use of weapons that terrorize and kill by simply delivering an agent to a unsuspecting population. Our enemy has the ability to cause injury and/or death by using our established infrastructures, including the U.S. Postal Service, major municipal drinking water supplies, or food preparation facilities to deliver their message of terror and death. With a target such as a salad bar purposely inoculated with Salmonella Typhimarium (Rajneeshee terrorist act in Oregon, 1984), the war moves from the battlefield of Iraq to an arena where Environmental Health professionals have major responsibilities.

There are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to dealing with an environmental disaster, as many of you know. However, having an overall understanding of the problem and the knowledge and skills to minimize or control the problem is critical

in order to minimize injury or death. Yet, how well prepared are Environmental Health agencies and their personnel to deal with this new type of threat to the public safety and well-being? What kind of response can we currently expect from environmental health agencies when food, water supplies, or wastewater treatment systems become terrorist weapons used on an unsuspecting public? Are we prepared to respond to a public health threat of this magnitude, not to mention the accompanying pandemonium?

Environmental Health professionals are not necessarily “first-responders” in a bio-terrorist event (although in some jurisdictions this may be the case) but they will be called upon to play a major role in managing such an act. Therefore, there is a critical need to educate ourselves based on the fact that the threat is real and that environmental health staff will be asked to respond regardless of the state of their preparedness. Bio-terrorism preparedness through appropriate pre-planning, preparation, and training should be a



Mike Handman

higher priority so that environmental health agencies can become proficient at protecting the public from harm. We must also better define our individual roles and responsibilities in a bio-terrorism event and be prepared to function using the Standard Emergency Management System while working closely with other response agencies to carry out our environmental health mission.

The events of September 11, 2001 and the Anthrax problem in 2002, certainly revealed to us all that terrorism and bio-terrorism can be very effective weapons to disrupt the normal functioning of our society. Such events also revealed that we must improve our operational capability to respond to such events through enhanced education and training.

CEHA, in responding to this need, has developed an 8 hour weapons of mass destruction education program emphasizing bio-terrorism and the environmental health specialist. This bio-terrorism awareness training is intended to inform and enhance the knowledge base of environmental health professionals who will be called upon to respond if or when a bio-terrorism event occurs in their community. Subjects covered include an overview of chemical, biological and radiological agents, individual and mass casualty decontamination, personal protective clothing, detection equipment, the roles and responsibilities of an environmental health specialist, and the Standard Emergency Response System. It is hoped that this one-day traveling seminar, to be held in a community near you, will begin to prepare environmental health professionals for their role in a bio-terrorism event. Leading the seminar will be Michael Handman, formally with San Diego County. For more information, please see the Traveling Seminar Series on Bio-Terrorism flyer on the opposite page.

***Be prepared. Take the initiative.
Educate yourself to the new reality.***

Ron Torres is a Supervisor for the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health. He served as president of CEHA in 2001-2002 and has held numerous CEHA leadership positions. He is currently Chair of the CEHA Traveling Seminar Series, CEHA's educational program.

AB 885 continued from page 9

- Requirements authorizing a qualified local agency to implement those requirements adopted under this chapter within its jurisdiction if that QLA requests authorization.
- Requirements for corrective action when onsite systems fail to meet the requirements or standards.
- Minimum requirements for monitoring used to determine system or systems performance if applicable.
- Exemption criteria to be established by the regional boards.
- Requirements for determining a system that is subject to a major repair.

After meeting for more than a year, a wrap-up draft has been completed. The organizations represented by the panelists have submitted a proposed rewrite of the regulations. The AB 885 writing team from SWR continues to meet and revise portions of the document. It is hoped that a final document with the new changes will be available by the end of April. The attendees asked excellent questions and provided valuable input. Copies of the latest documents are posted at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CEHA/files/>. The file folder is identified as AB 885.

Richard Wilson REHS, CEHA Liquid Waste Section Chair, Santa Cruz County Environmental Health was the panel moderator. Richard has over 34 years of experience in rural environmental health, specializing in water supply and onsite wastewater development. He is currently the Alternative Design Specialist for Santa Cruz County Environmental Health after working 30 years for San Mateo County. He has a BS in Biological Science from Cal State Hayward.



CEHA Traveling Seminar Series

Featuring curriculum designed especially for Environmental Health Professionals

Introduction to Bio-terrorism Training for Public Health Professionals

The seminar will be conducted by **Mike Handman, MS, REHS** who has worked in the environmental health field as an industrial hygienist, environmental health and hazardous materials specialist for over 30 years. He has recently retired from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health as a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist. He is an active participant in San

Diego's Terrorist Working Group and holds top security clearance with the Department of Justice and FBI. He is also a certified hazardous materials instructor with the State of California and with the University of California, where he teaches Chemical Emergency Response Planning and Hazardous Materials Health and Safety for hazardous waste workers.

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or fax to (707) 751-0315.

For information call CEHA (707) 751-0301

or email to cehasupport@aol.com

Seminar Policies & Details

- Please have payment accompany registration form. Make payment out to: California Environmental Health Association (CEHA). CEHA Tax ID# 23-7034973. VISA and MasterCard are also accepted.
- Each registrant must complete a form. Writing must be legible to qualify and email address or phone number is required.
- Reservations can be made with only a completed form faxed or mailed to CEHA which will serve as a commitment for payment. "No shows" will be responsible for payment of seminar fee.
- Cancellations must be made in writing (email acceptable) three days prior to registered seminar date in order to receive full refund. Registrations may be applied to future seminars.
- Registrants will not receive an official confirmation (you may call the CEHA office to confirm registration was received). Please retain a copy of your completed registration form for your records. Receipt for payment will be available when you arrive at the seminar. Onsite registrants will be mailed a receipt following the seminar.
- CEHA reserves the right to cancel any seminar. Registrants will be notified via email or phone call.
- Seminar fee does not include any food or beverage. All seminar locations will be within a reasonable distance to food facilities that can be visited during the lunch break.
- All seminars will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude no later than 5:30 p.m. Periodic breaks will be given throughout the seminar at the discretion of the speaker and a 75 minute break will be provided for lunch.
- Many seminar locations are setup theater style and we recommend that participants bring writing pads to take notes.
- All registrants will receive official course materials when they register the day of the seminar.

Components of the Seminar:

- Overview of chemical, biological and radiological agents used as weapons of mass casualty.
- Roles and responsibilities of public health professionals in a bio-terrorism event.
- Survey of field and laboratory instruments used to detect agents of mass destruction.
- Personal protective equipment for the environmental health specialist and public health professionals.
- Overview of personal and mass casualty decontamination techniques.
- Incident management through the use of the Standard Emergency Management System and ICS.
- Roles of other public agencies in a mass casualty emergency.

Who Should Also Attend:

- Any one working in the field of inspections that may expose them to chemical, biological and radiological agents.
- Any one who works with or may assist bio-terrorism first responders.
- Those working in the fields of fire fighting, emergency medicine (including doctors and nurses), hazardous materials and law enforcement.

Choose from 4 Dates & Locations in California

All Seminar Times are from 9:00am - 5:30pm

Please use Internet resources such as MapQuest for directions to the following locations. All locations are within walking or a short driving distance from eateries for lunch as this is not included in the seminar fee.

Ventura – August 13, 2003

Lower Plaza Assembly Room
Ventura County Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009

Orange – August 21, 2003

Braden Court Auditorium
Social Services Agency Building
1337 Braden Court, Orange, CA 92868

Sacramento – August 26, 2003

Room #104/105
University of Phoenix, Sacramento
1760 Creekside Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA, 95833

San Jose – September 18, 2003

Santa Clara Fire Training Center
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Seminar Location: Ventura Orange Sacramento San Jose

I am a member in good standing with: California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) (Subject to verification)

I am not a member and would like to join: CEHA (Annual Dues for Active Membership is \$59)

Payment Method: Check enclosed for \$ _____ Annual Dues included

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CALIFORNIA'S REHS PROGRAM

By Jack McGurk,
Chief, Environmental
Management Branch

Margaret Blood, REHS, has taken over responsibilities for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist Program within the Environmental Management Branch (EMB) of the California Department of Health Services. Margaret was welcomed to her new duties at the recent CEHA AES in Napa.

Raised in the Los Angeles area, Margaret went north to attend Sonoma State College where she received a Bachelor's degree in biology in 1977. Following graduation, she took additional courses in environmental health at San Jose State University before returning to L.A. to obtain her required fieldwork before becoming registered. While working for the Los Angeles County Environmental Health Division, she met her husband Richard who is also an REHS working in the Radon Program in EMB.

Margaret has worked in rural counties in the Department's Office of County Health Services for 18 years. In that capacity she conducted general environmental health duties including solid waste enforcement activities, food inspections and drinking water system evaluations. She looks forward to the new challenges of running the REHS Program.



Margaret Blood

CHANGES IN THE REHS PROGRAM

The REHS Program convened a Stakeholder Team consisting of the members of the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee and representatives from CEHA, CCDEH, academia, Cal-EPA, CCLHO, and staff and management from the program to assist in developing a Strategic Plan. The team focused on areas pertinent to the REHS Program, as well as, the environmental health profession. The Stakeholder Team identified five strategic initiatives through this process. The five initiatives that were felt necessary to strengthen the REHS Program and profession are:

Education: Develop educational strategies for environmental health protection.

- REHS Program: Ensure high caliber educational and training programs are available.
- Enhancing the profession: Disseminate information regarding resources and services that increase the quality of current environmental health professionals.
- Continuing education: Develop a mandatory continuing education program for REHSs.

Recruitment: Develop effective recruitment approaches for the environmental health profession.

- Cultivate a workforce that is adequate in number, appropriately trained, and culturally competent by maximizing opportunities to encourage environmental health careers and staff retention in both the public and private sectors.

Public Relations: Develop a public relations approach to environmental health protection.

- Increase public awareness and support for environmental health in California.
- Increase the capacity of governmental agencies, educators, community members, and the private sector to effectively deliver environmental health programs.

Professional Outreach: Develop forums and linkages with various organizations and agencies to promote awareness of environmental health protection.

- Leverage professional partnerships to promote environmental health.

REHS Program Administration: Develop administration programs for environmental health enhancement.

- Ensure the quality and cost-effectiveness of the REHS Program.
 - Meet existing mandates for exams, academic accreditation, registration, and discipline.
 - Evaluate program ability to implement reciprocity, promote the profession, increase public relations, and institute continuing education.
- Complete a work plan based upon the strategic plan.

To initiate improvements in the REHS Program, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) to have them evaluate applications for the registration process. There are 500 to 600 new applications for registration received annually that must be evaluated. Additionally, 5,500 inquiries to the program are received each year. The MOU will allow the bulk of the routine evaluation screening work for the program to be performed by CPS while the Department retains its authority and oversight. Applicants will pay CPS for these services. This new process will free REHS Program staff from activities that have taken up to 70 percent of their time. Core tasks for improving the REHS Program as outlined by the Strategic Plan will be addressed by staff with their freed up time. As a first step, REHS Program staff will move quickly to initiate site visits to approved universities offering environmental health degrees. Additional universities will be assisted in implementing degree minors in environmental health. Reviews of county REHS training programs will be initiated.

OWNERSHIP OF THE SOLUTION:

The responsibility for implementation of improvements for the REHS Program and the environmental health profession as highlighted in the Strategic Plan must be shared among the Department's REHS Program, the CEHA Board and membership, CCDEH, the universities with environmental health programs, private industry, other environmental health agencies, and individual environmental health specialists. All of the stakeholders need to evaluate their strategic plans to ensure that they are assisting in the process and that their plans dovetail with the other partners to advance the environmental health profession.

Jack McGurk is Chief of the Environmental Management Branch of the California Department of Health Services. He served as CEHA president from 1992 -1993. Jack can be reached at jmcgurk@dhs.ca.gov.

PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



By Jill Pahl,
2002-2003
CEHA President

It's been a wild ride. When you start with the greatest event CEHA has ever hosted, and will ever host for years to come - the World Congress - it is hard to put the remainder of the year in perspective. Luckily I had the strategic

planning process for the profession, as I've written about in prior articles, and the changes in this publication as well as having our Chapter host the Annual Education Symposium in my backyard to keep me busy.

I want to thank last year's Executive Committee: Ron Torres, Turonda Crumpler, Kristie Hensley, David Koppel and Kara Lemieux, as well as all of the Board members for supporting our work in the prior year. I'd also like to thank Karmi Ferguson and Kristi Hensley for moving the Bulletin to its current format. The many compliments I've received on the new Bulletin format are primarily due to their efforts.

As you can tell from the selection of articles in this Bulletin, the 52nd AES was another wonderful educational opportunity, and I want to thank all of my fellow members of the Redwood Chapter for putting their hearts and souls into the AES. Their

hard work showed through. We kicked off another series of traveling seminars at the AES on Bioterrorism. The initial evaluations indicate that these seminars should not be missed.

We kicked off the AES with a keynote presentation by Dr. Diana Bonta, Chief of the Department of Health Services. She recognized the need for the profession to evolve, and to continue to cooperate and expand partnerships with the open communication process that was used in the Strategic Planning Process. I found it interesting to note that there about one thousand proposed pieces of legislation her Department is reviewing, while there are close to 400 proposed legislative initiatives concerning environmental health. No wonder she stated that unfortunately it's a luxury to plan. CEHA appreciates the priority she made of the Strategic Planning process to date.

On the last afternoon of the AES, we hosted a panel from the REHS Strategic Planning Group to explain their participation in DHS's strategic planning development process. We hope to take this panel on the road to gain further input from our profession on how and where to proceed from here. CEHA should be poised to take on a leadership role in advancing our profession in the years to come. More on this will be posted on the website as well as included in future Bulletins to keep the membership up to date on the process.

I didn't truly appreciate the level of energy that would be required to step in as President without the prior commitment through the Chairs. I've decided that those, such as Turonda our current leader, who have served 4 to 6 years to make it to the Presidential position are so conditioned by the time they are President, that they don't realize all that they are accomplishing in one short year. I don't mean this in a 'don't volunteer' way; it is a wonderful experience to grow from. But instead the extraordinary starts to seem ordinary. For example, Ron Torres was instrumental in seeing the Traveling Seminars become 'a thing that CEHA does', but that form and type of training is a brave new world for the organization.

I am a firm believer that you get what you put into projects. I hope that CEHA has grown from what I put in. I am actually revitalized and recharged after the last year. It's wonderful to see things progress and advance the profession, which you have personally had a role in. As one Board member suggested, maybe we should start naming some of the advances we make after the professionals that suggest them. We'd be touting many names of the wide amount of professionals that have dedicated service to advance CEHA. I hope your name will be one of those mentioned in the future. Volunteer, you'll be surprised at what you learn!

CEHA would like to thank the following members who have made contributions to the

**SCHOLARSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
DURING THE 2002-2003 FISCAL YEAR:**

Letitia Briggs, Laurie Cotulla, John Devincenzi, Sandi Donahue, Frank Dono, John Dufrense, John Ellis, Lorlyn Engellenner, Kurt Fisher, Roger Foote, Federico Galvan, Frank Gomez, Martin Hally, Kerry Ann Hamilton, Stacey Harrington, Kathy Hartman, Brian Hoy, Shari Holloway, Robin Belle-Hook, Dorothy Janse, Dennis Kelly, Lee Kirby, Charles Kerns, John Kolb, Henry Levin, Jun Makishima, Ron Owcarz, Jill Pahl, Stephanie Percival, Sebastiano Piazza, John Pipinos, Gerald Sams, John Schillinger, Emanuel Schwied, Ronald Sharp, Mike Treinen, Jess Trinidad, Ron Torres, James Tumlin, Jr., Doug Turner, Rich Wilson, and Dan Wright.

STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By *Justin Malan*
 CCDEH Executive Director

After initially identifying almost 400 “environmental health-related” bills of the 2,880 bills introduced already this year, CCDEH has selected 108 bills to track and possibly take a position on.

It is customary for CCDEH to divide all the selected legislation into eight categories, seven of which correlate with the CCDEH policy committees (solid waste, hazardous materials/waste, food safety, recreational health, land use, housing and occupational health, and data management) and one “general” category of overarching program importance that is referred to the CCDEH Executive Committee for review and a recommended position. Currently all legislation is under review by the policy committees and Executive Committee, but some preliminary positions can be expected on several important measures.

Of the 108 bills being tracked by CCDEH (viewable with topic and digest summary on the CCDEH website: www.ccdeh.com), there appear to be some 25 of particular importance to local environmental health programs.

FOOD SAFETY:

AB 1738 (Assembly Health Committee) is the CURRFFL Review Committee (CRC) sponsored bill which will include a mobile support unit within the definition of a food facility. AB 1045 (Leslie) causes concern as it will include churros with hotdogs as food permitted to be prepared on carts. SB 773 (Murray) is troublesome as it extends certain PHF exemptions to Korean Rice Rolls.

SOLID WASTE:

Again this area is dominated by waste classification measures, but AB 240 (Reyes) will likely need to be opposed as it directly challenges the notion of risk-based permitting and enforcement by disallowing tonnage as a criterion for establishing tiered permitting thresholds.

HAZARDOUS WASTE/MATERIALS:

As usual, there are some 30 bills dealing with all aspects of hazardous materials / waste management and the CUPA program.

CCDEH is sponsoring AB 1640 (Laird) which strengthens local enforcement authority. AB 302 (Chan) which would ban PBEs, AB 1068 and AB 1218 dealing with USTs and SB 1002 (Sher) which would grandfather in Santa Clara Water District into the LOP program are all of direct interest to the CUPAs and Pas. The Vice Chairperson of Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee has introduced several related bills, including AB 387 which provides some regulatory relief for agricultural business plan filers and 1246 which will review the due process followed by DTSC in administrative orders. Two controversial measures by Senator Romero, SB 13 and SB 201 would transfer the authority of radioactive material management from DHS to Cal/EPA. There are several additional “spot” bills that may emerge as important measures as the year progresses.

LAND USE:

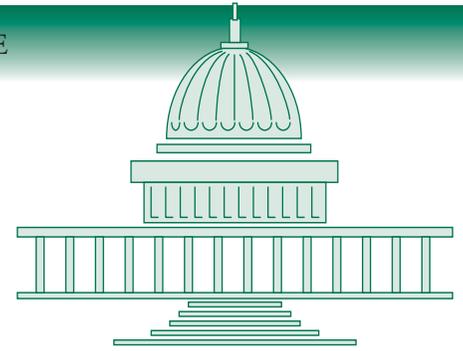
In this “catch-all” category that covers all aspects of water quality, vector control, liquid waste and other land use regulation, we are tracking another 30 bills. These include AB 83 (Corbett) which restructures the regulation of bottled water and water dispensers, SB 181 (Sher), SB 311 (Machado) and AB 386 (Aghazarian), AB 1700 and AB 1020 which also deal with drinking water standards and the LPA program. ACR 52 and AB 1406 seek to improve prevention of a West Nile Virus outbreak.

HOUSING AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH:

Traditionally this area has fewer bills and this year we are tracking only three measures; AB 647 (Nunez) dealing with housing code violations, AB 1034 (Mullin) on building standards and SB 522 (Soto) which covers residential care housing.

RECREATIONAL HEALTH:

These bills deal predominantly with swimming pools and coastal and freshwater bathing. Most significantly, Senator Florez has reintroduced the freshwater bathing standards legislation sponsored by CCDEH but held up in fiscal committee last year, SB



475. In addition AB 400 (Harman) seeks to strengthen sewage spill prevention and reporting on beaches.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

Fast becoming a core function and resource drain to EH agencies, data management is an important area of concern to CCDEH. AB 1629 (Frommer) covers health facility data management while AB 1107 (Liu) seeks to establish a standardized groundwater data system.

GENERAL:

Of the 20 broad category measures, CCDEH will be working closely with the authors on AB 1360 (Steinberg) which institutionalizes the Environmental Protection Indicator Project (EPIC) as well as bills such as SB 836 (Soto) dealing with safety retirement.

It is evident, that despite a record budget deficit – and in some cases because of it – we are faced with a deluge of bills that may in some shape or form affect the effective and efficient delivery of environmental health services to the citizens of California. Most are well-intended, some practical, but many are not. CCDEH will be extra vigilant to ensure that our agencies are not saddled with further unnecessary and/or unfunded mandates while always prepared to initiate or embrace a measure that will truly protect our public health, safety or our environment.

Justin Malan is the Executive Director of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH). Anyone that wishes to alert CCDEH to additional legislation that we should track or take a position on is encouraged to contact their Director if within a local environmental health agency or Justin directly at justin@ccdeh.com.

CEHA ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, CEHA takes the opportunity to acknowledge outstanding achievements in the field of Environmental Health by giving recognition and / or monetary assistance to deserving professionals and students.



*Jeanette Watson
Martin Smilo Undergraduate
Scholarship Award*



*Frank O' Sullivan
Vince Durham
Memorial Award*



*Ricardo Encarnacion
Stuart E. Richardson, Sr.
Award*



*Melanie Payne of the
Scaramento Bee Newspaper
Media Award*



*Heidi Sundberg, Distinguished Service Award;
Charles Peters; Julayne Gath, Environmental
Specialist of the Year Award; and Dorothy Janse*



*Carl Erickson
College Student
Scholarship Award*



*William Harmon
Robert Merryman Manager
of the Year Award*



*Doug Turner, CEHA's
Nominee for the NEHA
Walter S. Mangold Award*



*Gary Erbeck, San Diego County EH Director
accepts the Legislator of the Year Award
for San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox*

*Not pictured:
Stephen Zolezzo, Mark Nottingham Award
Leticia Tapia, Martin Smilo Undergraduate Scholarship Award*

IMPORTANT DATES

NEHA 67th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

June 8 - 11, 2003, Reno Hilton Hotel, Nevada

CEHA Board of Directors Meetings

Saturday, July 26, 2003, Pasadena Sheraton Hotel

Friday, October 24, 2003, Concord

Saturday, January 31, 2004, Alameda County EH

Tuesday, March 30, 2004, Pasadena Sheraton Hotel

CEHA Leadership Training Workshop

Saturday, April 3, 2004, Pasadena Sheraton Hotel

CEHA Regional Update Conferences

Northern, Thursday, October 23, 2003

James W. Kellogg Training Center, Concord

Southern, Thursday, November 13, 2003

Shelter Pointe Hotel & Marina, San Diego

CEHA Traveling Seminar Series

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