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COMMITTEE

AND CHAPTER  
PRESIDENTS

# Who's Who in CEHA

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## Darryl Wong - Executive President



**County of San Benito  
Director of Environmental Health  
UC—Berkeley  
Food Science  
president@CEHA.org**

For some of us, we fell into our environmental health careers with a suggestion by someone you knew working in the field. My good friend and fellow dietitian, Gail Lee, had outgrown the hospital world we worked in and became an Environmental Health Specialist with the City of Berkeley. Knowing me well, she called me one day to say she found my “ideal job”! I didn’t even give it a second thought and started the process to apply to become an REHS with the state. Doug Turner, who oversaw the REHS

Program back then and is the current CEHA Historian, gave me the green light to apply and I accepted a job with Monterey County on July 7, 1990. Yeah, that long ago! Since then I’ve had the pleasure and honor to work for the City of Long Beach and am currently with San Benito County.

One of the things that has aided my career in environmental health has been my association with CEHA. Through CEHA, I have met many talented and brilliant people who inspired me to be better; to go farther; to be a leader. Being a member of CEHA provides the unique opportunity to network with like-minded professionals to share ideas and answers to make a difference towards the advancement of Environmental Health and our profession. Our founding fathers had this in mind when they formed the California Association of Sanitarians back on March 1, 1930. I think they would be proud that we carry on their torch to this day. As my CEHA journey continues, I look forward to meeting new friends, learning more and sharing what I have experienced with the next generation of Registered Environmental Health Specialists.

## Linda M. Launer - Executive President-Elect



**CSU—Fresno  
Lecturer/EOHS Internship Coordinator  
LL Resources: Environmental/Food Safety Consultant  
CSU—Fresno  
M.S. in Health Science/Environmental Health  
Loyola Marymount University  
B.S. in Biology  
president-elect@CEHA.org**

I choose to remain involved and active in CEHA to promote the importance of our profession and the relationship with the public and legislature. I believe the environmental health mission is to improve the quality of life, work and health of our communities by sharing and promoting education for a safer environment. In my current employment as a consultant, instructor, and EOHS internship coordinator, I have the privilege of continuing to educate others about the importance of our profession. As I’ve shared before, my students at CSU—Fresno are my favorite. I enjoy the student who has stumbled from a pre-chosen degree path to discover the field of EH and all the areas for a future career it has to offer.

With my free time, I enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends.



## Megan Floyd

### Executive Vice President

County of Sacramento  
Land Use Program  
CSU—Sacramento  
vice-president@CEHA.org



Shortly after I graduated from Sac State in 2010, I was waiting tables. A health inspector came in and I asked how he got that job. He gave me the information for CDPH. I followed his guidance and got my transcripts evaluated and my training letter. I began my EH career in 2011 as a food and pool inspector first in Kern and then in San Luis Obispo counties. I took a position with Sacramento County in September 2013 as a CUPA inspector. In October 2014 I moved from CUPA to the lead for the Small Water Systems program. In 2015 I received my Water Treatment Operator Level 2 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board. Over the last couple of years I've become very involved in Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER), and I am FEMA certified as an EHTER trainer. Last year I took over as the lead for the Land Use Program.

I'm extremely excited to be involved with CEHA. I've been the Exhibits Committee Chair for the last 3 AES's. I have many ideas on how to bring the "new generation" into CEHA. Getting younger generations interested in this profession is key. This can be done through technology and social media. I also participate in middle school career days for one of the school districts in Sacramento County to make kids aware of what an REHS does and the vast field that it covers.

## Kiki Cason

### Executive Secretary

Orange County  
UCLA  
B.S.  
CSU—Fullerton  
M.P.H.  
secretary@CEHA.org



Environmental Health is a critical component of modern-day society. Environmental Health ensures, usually behind the scenes, that systems necessary to sustain human life—air, water, food, and waste—are maintained in a safe and clean manner.

I enjoy the camaraderie with other CEHA members and consider CEHA an investment in my career. I wanted to serve this important organization.

## Deepa Dillikar

### Executive Treasurer

County of Santa Clara  
Environmental Health Specialist  
M.P.H. in Environmental & Occupational Health  
treasurer@CEHA.org



I love environmental health. As REHS's we all make a difference in public health. I have extensive research background specializing in food safety and interventions in lead and mold hazards. With CEHA we share a strong network of environmental health professionals. As a CEHA executive board member, I encourage others to expand our professional CEHA network.

# Graciela Garcia



## Immediate Past President

County of Ventura  
 Environmental Health Division  
 Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
 CSU—Northridge  
 B.S. in Environmental & Occupational Health

Having served as the CEHA President for the past year was a great experience that provided me with great opportunities for professional and personal growth. I worked alongside very committed environmental health specialists who served on the CEHA Board and represented all CEHA members. Together, as a team, we worked hard to uphold CEHA’s Mission of providing for the professional growth and development of the environmental health professional.

I encourage all CEHA members to become active in their respective chapters so that together we can continue to move the profession forward. As the world faces new challenges, such as the COVID-19 global pandemic, the importance of the environmental health profession has become even more evident to the public. Take pride in the profession; become a leader in protecting the environment and the community; make a difference.

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.” – Mother Teresa



# Sarah Sanders



## Redwood Chapter President

Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health  
 Environmental Health Specialist II  
 Northern Vermont University  
 Integrated Environmental Science

Environmental Health underscores the role of people in our built environments and helps to identify ways to thrive in the places where we live, work, and play.

I have a passion for rural environmental health. I love what we do!

Lilacs are my favorite flower because they are fragrant, beautiful, and a gentle reminder to enjoy the moment.

# Marissa Castillo



## Central Chapter President

CSU-Fresno  
 Environmental Health & Safety Specialist  
 UC—Santa Cruz  
 B.S. in Earth Science



I graduated from college with a degree in Earth Science, and in applying for jobs I got the opportunity to work as an Environmental Health Technician in Merced County. I had no idea what the role of Environmental Health was, but as I learned more I knew it was a field of work that I wanted to stay in. I have been in the profession now for almost seven years.

Personally, I think that being a CEHA member has been a huge benefit to my professional development. The leadership experience I have gained from CEHA has been very beneficial and opened up career opportunities for me, and for that I am very grateful to CEHA. I also think that CEHA is a great networking opportunity, and I have met great people.

# Gerald Biando



## Southwest Chapter President

County of San Diego Environmental Health  
Food & Housing Division  
San Diego State University  
M.P.H. in Environmental Health

My career in Environmental Health was brought forth by my love for food and my educational background in public health. I started studying Health Science – Public Health at San Diego State University (SDSU) while also working part-time as a restaurant server. Being an avid foodie, I wanted to shape my career towards food safety and help ensure that restaurants/chefs provide delicious food to my community in a safe, clean manner. After completing my Public Health undergraduate studies, I earned my Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in Environmental Health from SDSU and started my current career with the County of San Diego.

By joining CEHA, I hope to continue growing as a public health & EH professional by learning new topics within the field of environmental health, meeting other EH professionals who share the same passion for food & food safety that I have, and gaining valuable leadership experience that I can use to help educate my fellow colleagues and community.

# Arthur Surdilla, Sr.



## Northern Chapter President

Alameda County  
Office of Solid / Medical Waste  
UC—Davis  
B.S. in Environmental Resource Science—Hydrobiology

Out of high school I always wanted to do inspections related to protecting health, safety and the environment. I didn't know the REHS field existed until after college when I had a job working at a landfill and learned about their regulatory inspections.

While many REHS professionals utilize CEHA for the CECH that they can obtain at chapter-related educational events, the CEHA Update, and the CEHA AES, I think one of the understated beneficial aspects of joining CEHA is the networking portion of those events. You finally get to put a face to the name you've seen on circulating e-mails in different programs, to meet REHS's from other jurisdictions near and far and see how their programs operate similarly or differently than yours, and to meet other professionals who may provide valuable contacts for you in the future.

# Geeta Bayyaram



## Mission Chapter President

County of Ventura  
Environmental Health Division  
CSU—Northridge  
B.S. in Public Health—Health Education

Hello my fellow CEHA colleagues, my name is Geeta Bayyaram, currently with the County of Ventura, Environment Health Division, for about 12 years. I wanted to contribute and be part of the community which led me to Environment Health: to work together with others, whether it be fellow EHS's or facility owners or operators, to protect public health and our surrounding environment. CEHA was ideal for me to bond and network with fellow like-minded EHS's, and learn new and upcoming issues in Environmental Health. Being one with nature and out in the nature is one of my favorite things.

# Brenna Santiago



## Southern Chapter President

County of Los Angeles  
 Environmental Health Specialist  
 California Polytechnic State University  
 B.S. in Biology  
 Azusa Pacific University  
 M.P.H.

I was inspired to start my career in Environmental Health by my grandfather. He had a long and fulfilling career as an Environmental Health Specialist, and as a child I always admired him.

After joining the same county that he began his career with, my passion for protecting the public was ignited. I have always been enthusiastic about working with the public, and the perfect meld of science, health, and enforcement fits my personality perfectly.

I see joining CEHA as a major benefit for anyone who takes their career seriously. Being a member of CEHA opens doors you didn't even know existed. From the educational opportunities to the fantastic networking framework, CEHA benefits professionals as a whole.



# Michael de Jesus



## Superior Chapter President

Sacramento County Environmental Management Dept.  
 Professor at Consumnes River College  
 B.S. In Dietetics

Growing up, it has always been a passion of mine to promote the health and safety of our community and environment through the sharing and application of science-based knowledge. CEHA at its core provides not only education but also an effective platform for dialogue and the sharing of information crucial to our professional development in the field of Environmental Health. Years ago, while attending college and having been fortunate enough to hear an REHS speak of her profession, I became driven to pursue a career in the field. As a current REHS and Adjunct Professor of Food Safety and Sanitation, I find CEHA to be an invaluable resource and forum especially for aspiring environmental specialists. May CEHA continue to inspire others as it has always inspired me.



# Michael Jaime



## Citrus Chapter President

County of Riverside  
 Cal State Polytechnic—Pomona  
 B.A. in Psychology

Like many others, I kind of fell into the field of Environmental Health. As a manager in the food industry, I was constantly asking my inspectors questions about environmental health. Upon conducting my own research, I realized how broad this field was and saw it as a great opportunity to make a difference. I started my journey in 2015 at the Orange County Health Care Agency, immediately fell in love with the job, and knew I found the career for me. I am now an inspector in Riverside County and seek out every opportunity I can to learn, grow, mentor, and develop in the field. This is why I joined CEHA. CEHA gives me a platform to network with all inspectors throughout California and continue my education so I can best inform, protect, and promote public safety. I truly believe Environmental Health is a family, and it is important that we communicate and stay up to date on all matters in this field so we can educate the public. This is the benefit of CEHA.



## CEHA Contacts

### **CEHA Annual Educational Symposium**

[aes@ceha.org](mailto:aes@ceha.org)

### **Awards Committee**

[awards@ceha.org](mailto:awards@ceha.org)

### **Awards and Scholarships**

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### **CEHA Support**

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### **CEHA Update**

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### **Continuing Education**

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### **Membership Committee**

[membership@ceha.org](mailto:membership@ceha.org)

### **Technical Sections**

Position Available

**Publications Committee:** Richard Diaz; Jahniah McGill; Julie DeGraw; Vickie Sandoval; Sarah Crossman; Adam Rocke; Amer El Ahraf

To submit a article for consideration e-mail:

[publications@ceha.org](mailto:publications@ceha.org)

## **Contact Us**

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866-574-7424

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## **REHS Stats from CDPH**

Effective May 2020:

Active REHS = 2,697

Suspended REHS (individuals who have not paid their active fee for up to 3 years) = 146

Retired REHS = 1,011 (made up of 832 in good standing and 179 who have not paid their fees in up to 3 years)

Eligible Trainees = 1,862

Unfortunately, we do not have any new REHSs this year because the March 2020 exam had to be postponed in light of the Governor's Stay-At-Home orders.

Grandmother Rock, Trinidad (Photo by Sarah Sanders)

