



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY

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AMY HARBERT
DIRECTOR

January 26, 2022

TO: Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Amy Harbert, Director
Department of Environmental Health and Quality

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Provided for your information is a copy of the County of San Diego, Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board's 2021 Annual Report. The County of San Diego's Administrative Code, Section 249.8, Article XV-A requires this report be submitted to the Board of Supervisors annually.

The Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board (EHQAB) is comprised of 17 talented and highly-qualified professionals from County industry and community groups some of which serve at your appointment. EHQAB was established to advise and provide technical input to the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) on the development and implementation of programs that address the environmental needs of San Diego County. The County is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and diverse group of community leaders willing to volunteer their services as advisors.

The attached 2021 EHQAB Annual Report contains recommendations for programs and projects within the scope of the DEHQ and identifies the areas of interest EHQAB intends to focus on in the upcoming year.

Please feel free to contact me at (858) 505-6671, if you have any questions regarding the Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board's Annual Report or their observations.

Respectfully,

Amy Harbert, Director

Attachment: Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board 2021 Annual Report

cc: LUEG Executive Office



County of San Diego

Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

Malcolm Vinje
Chairman

Stephen Zolezzi
Vice Chairman

January 26, 2022

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Jim Desmond

ANNUAL REPORT - 2021

Dear Board Members:

Section 249.8, Article XV-A of the County of San Diego Administrative Code requires the Environmental Health Quality Advisory Board (EHQAB) to submit an annual report of its recommendations concerning the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) to the Board of Supervisors.

In accordance with the above requirement, this letter constitutes EHQAB's Annual Report, and is submitted for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. During this past year, EHQAB met 11 times on the following dates: January 27th, February 24th, April 28th, May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, September 22nd, October 27th, November 17th, and December 15th.

EHQAB consists of 17 professional, industry and community members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and usually meets monthly throughout the year. EHQAB was established to advise and provide technical input to the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Director of DEHQ on the development and implementation of programs that address the environmental public health needs of the San Diego County region.

DEHQ enhances San Diegans' quality of life by protecting public health and safeguarding environmental quality, educating the public to increase environmental awareness, and implementing and enforcing local, state, and federal environmental laws. DEHQ regulates the following: retail food safety; public housing; public swimming pools; small drinking water systems; body art; mobile home parks; recycled water system; wells and monitoring wells, onsite wastewater systems; recreational water; aboveground petroleum storage; underground storage tanks, including cleanup oversight; hazardous materials business plans; and management and disposal of medical and hazardous wastes. In addition, DEHQ serves as the Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency, reduces diseases carried by rats and mosquitoes and helps to ensure safe workplaces for County employees.

This EHQAB Annual Report highlights and recognizes program areas of environmental and public health significance and recommends continued focus on these areas.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's response to COVID-19 global pandemic.

EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's:

- Collaboration with the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), multiple other county departments and local jurisdictions to comply with state and local Health Officer Orders.
- Prompt investigation of COVID food handler cases and community outbreaks associated with food facilities.
- Leadership in developing, distributing, and sharing resources with other jurisdictions in the State.
- Educational outreach to their regulated industries on safe reopening protocols and guidance to protect their employees and customers.
- Health and safety consultations by the Occupational Health Program to employees of the Emergency Operations Center and various County departments, including HHS, Probation, Sheriff, Public Works, Human Resources, and General Services.
- Ability to modify and continue their operations and services by providing virtual counter services, remote virtual inspections, and meetings, and leveraging staff teleworking when needed.
- Resume regular operations and in person services as soon as it was safe to do so.
- Implementation of the Board of Supervisor's direction to process fee deferments and waivers for business and industry sectors that were disproportionately impacted by statewide closures and restrictions.
- Analysis of service provided and issuance of refunds to programs who did not receive DEHQ services due to statewide closures and restrictions.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's focus on preparedness and statewide leadership and engagement in emerging issues and regulations.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Active coordination with other city, state and federal agencies, as well as other County departments, for the prevention of illness related to environmental health and public health risks.
- Leadership in emergency response and disaster recovery, which has benefitted not only San Diego County, but also other agencies throughout the state. This includes DEHQ's emergency response and recovery efforts related to a mercury spill at a 40-unit apartment complex, numerous gas and oil spills related to trailer accidents, and response to a major oil spill that occurred off the coast of Orange County, due to a pipeline leak. The oil spill in Orange County also impacted San Diego County, as the oil landed on local beaches in the form of tar balls. DEHQ was called upon to serve in the local Emergency Operations Center and the Unified Command center's Public Health Assessment Unit in Orange County. DEHQ team members wore many hats as experts in emergency response, hazardous chemicals, and beach water sampling, including mapping out beach locations where water and soil samples could be taken, escorting the private contractors during the sampling to ensure the logistics, and communication with local lifeguards and the public. DEHQ's strong relationships with local emergency responders, as well as local and state lifeguards were a valuable resource in the response.
- Coordination with city agencies and other County departments for cannabis businesses that use hazardous materials and operate without a Certified Unified Program Agency permit through DEHQ, permit to ensure compliance with state law and local requirements related to hazardous materials business plans. DEHQ should continue to participate in the Marijuana Enforcement Task Force with law enforcement, city agencies and other County departments to identify and manage risks to public health and the environment from illegal cannabis activities.
- Participation in statewide working groups and partnership with statewide professional organizations to draft legislation regarding California Retail Food Code cleanup bill, AB 831, which provides various points of clarification in retail food law and was approved by the Governor on August 31, 2021.

- Support of legislation that establishes further food safety standards and clarifies California Retail Food Code language regarding third-party food ordering and delivery services, fishermen's markets, limited food preparation, and limited service charitable feeding organizations.
- Efforts to look for emerging and endemic vectors for investigation of vector-borne infectious disease cases.
- Development and implementation of a mosquito pesticide resistance monitoring program.
- Preparation of a program environmental impact report for the integrated vector management program.
- Continued collaboration with County Department of Public Health Services in the investigation of vector-borne illness reports.
- Continued efforts in US-Mexico border environmental health activities such as hazardous materials and hazardous waste transporter inspections.
- Continued efforts to improve the beach monitoring program through evaluation of a rapid test method for beach water quality monitoring, increased use of social media for public advisories, and increased community education and outreach activities.
- Enhanced beach water quality monitoring along the south county coastline to proactively assess potential ocean water impacts from cross-border sewage spills or Tijuana River flows that may cause increased risk of human illness for swimmers, surfers or other recreational water contact users.
- Pursuit of approvals from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to be the first in the nation to use ddPCR rapid-testing of beach water quality, providing same day water quality results to better inform the public.
- Continued collaboration on region-wide technical advisory groups and involvement on the review of proposed statewide regulations regarding permanent food facilities, mobile food facilities, public swimming pools, body art, camps, solid waste, underground storage tanks, aboveground petroleum storage, hazardous waste, hazardous materials business plans, emergency response, accidental release prevention, enforcement, and training.
- Statewide technical expertise and leadership in implementing regulations (AB 1429, 2019) associated with reporting of hazardous materials information into the statewide electronic reporting system, also known as the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). This law streamlines reporting requirements for the regulated business community when there are no changes at smaller and medium-sized hazardous materials facilities.

EHQAB recognizes and supports the County's ongoing planning efforts and operational changes as a result of climate change.

EHQAB supports DEHQ's efforts in:

- Continued response to the effects from climate change and prolonged drought on groundwater resources.
- Ongoing emergency planning for response to extreme weather events.
- Improving local vector-borne and foodborne illness surveillance to better monitor and proactively respond to emerging environmental public health risks.
- Efforts towards the goal of electrifying DEHQ's fleet with planned replacements for 100% of its fleet with the expectation that all non-trucks or specialty vehicles can be replaced with PHEVs or EVs.

EHQAB supports DEHQ's emphasis on public health and regulatory education and outreach to its stakeholders and the public.

EHQAB supports and encourages DEHQ's:

- Continued efforts to seek input from stakeholders and to provide educational workshops, including virtual meetings, to increase awareness of environmental and public health and improve regulatory compliance

for DEHQ programs, with a focus on identifying how department services can be more inclusive to better serve all members of the diverse community and region.

- Offer stakeholder and technical outreach sessions in all threshold languages through the use of simultaneous translations and live caption language translations.
- Development and implementation of community needs assessments in the certified unified program agency and food program to incorporate the diverse and unique needs of stakeholders and communities.
- Efforts to develop metrics to monitor usage of online services and to continue expanding and/or advancing all online services including: CERS computer-based training; online public records; online training; online scheduling of underground storage tank plan check inspections; and online submission of food facility and public pool construction plans to meet the needs of businesses and the public.
- Continued efforts to educate, train, and provide a compliance-based incentive program (EPIC+) for facilities in the Biotechnology and Research and Development industries in San Diego County.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's efforts to streamline and innovate processes.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Implementation of a new phone-based application to be utilized for conducting inspections of Temporary Food Facilities that is anticipated to create future efficiencies in field operations and savings in staff time.
- Creation of a Plan Check Digital Review Portal to assist and streamline the review and approval of construction and remodeling plans for health-regulated facilities.
- Transition from a paper to an online process that allows for Underground Storage Tank (UST) Plan Check applications for construction, operation, repair, and removal of USTs, be submitted, reviewed, and approved electronically providing more flexibility to customers and a quicker turnaround time.
- Efforts to develop metrics to monitor usage of online services and to continue expanding and/or advancing all online services including: online permit billing and fee payment (28.7% of all DEHQ payments, up from 23.4% last year).
- Implementation of a mobile application for all Vector Control site inspection reports, increasing the efficiency of technicians in the field.
- Efforts to develop an application-based rat inspection checklist to standardize inspection processes and language which is anticipated to reduce administrative time drafting reports and reviewing for grammar and style discrepancies.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's efforts to maintain fiscally sustainable programs for public health protection.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Efforts to assess full cost recovery fees to support program mandates, a level of service expected by stakeholders and customers, and efforts to analyze costs, implement ongoing cost containment measures and business process improvements, and bring forth more frequent fee proposals to ensure full cost recovery of services provided.
- Evaluation of state mandates, program efficiencies, and cost containment measures that resulted in changes and streamlined requirements for small quantity medical waste generators throughout the region who had demonstrated consistent operational compliance.
- Continued efforts to conduct ongoing in-depth program analysis of operations, service levels, permits, and fee structures to determine programmatic efficiencies, including inspection programs associated with small drinking water systems, mobile home parks, and retail food facilities.

- Continued daily synchronization of inspection information from DEHQ's data system to CERS, allowing businesses to see the most recent compliance information regarding their facilities.
- Efforts to recruit and maintain qualified, highly skilled staff.
- Continued efforts to utilize technology as a means of identifying program efficiencies and contain costs.
- Efforts to explore expedited service options while continuing to ensure public health and safety and a level playing field for businesses.

EHQAB acknowledges the awards and recognition DEHQ has received in 2021 for its expertise and innovative leadership.

- *Achievement Award for Underground Storage Tank Plan Check - Shifting from Paper to Virtual (NACo).* This award was received for the development and implementation of a virtual process to review construction plans for underground storage tanks (USTs). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, UST construction plans were submitted on paper and in person. However, due to the stay-at-home orders issued in March 2020, DEHQ identified a way to transition to a virtual or online process. Using email and existing County software, UST plan check applications are now submitted, reviewed, and approved in an electronic format. Fees are processed online and approved permits and plans can be electronically distributed to contractors and business owners and can be accessed by field staff at construction inspections. Pivoting to an online process streamlines operations, allows for quicker turnaround time, and is projected to have an annual 6% (or \$28,000) cost savings for the program.
- *Exceptional Partners Award, California Restaurant Association (CRA), San Diego Chapter.* This award was received for DEHQ's response and partnership with the restaurant industry during the COVID-19 pandemic, to assist the restaurant industry in navigating state guidelines and changes to their operations. This included, but was not limited to, the development of educational materials and guidance documents that were used throughout the state; conducting over 968 COVID-19 outbreak investigation for food handlers since the start of the pandemic; providing timely outreach and information on a variety of topics such as state guidelines, reopening protocols, and changes to state or local requirement; and sending or sharing more than 85 GovDelivery messages, 55 emails and 235 social media posts.

EHQAB also recognizes and supports the following issues within the scope of the County, but not within DEHQ:

EHQAB recognizes and supports:

- The goals of the County's Strategic Plan to Reduce Waste and the County's efforts to encourage the development of organics recycling infrastructure, the use of food donations as a means to divert organic waste, and the use of waste conversion technologies to minimize the amount of waste being disposed and ease the burden on current and proposed landfills.
- The County's efforts to conduct outreach and education on the topics of source reduction, pollution prevention, and recycling of a variety of materials to reduce per capita 2018 disposal rates in the unincorporated San Diego County (5.5 pounds per person) as compared to the 2018 statewide rate (5.2 pounds per person).
- The County's *Live Well San Diego* Food System Initiative that is building better health, living safely, and thriving through implementation of the Food System Donation Action Plan which seeks to support and improve food donation in the region to help address nutrition insecurity, while also reducing food waste.
- The County's efforts in developing a Climate Action Plan to reduce the County's overall contribution of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, to conserve energy and water resources, and to improve air quality and community health.
- The County's Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap that invests in EV technology by installing EV charging stations at County facilities accessible to the public, building out EV charging infrastructure in the unincorporated area, collaborating with regional partners to encourage they buy and use more EVs, and replacing more than 500 existing gas-powered County vehicles with EVs by 2027.

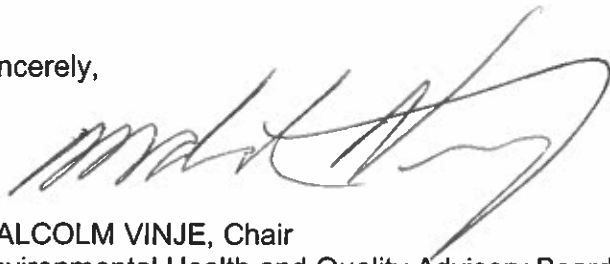
- The County's Strategic Energy Plan that provides both long- and short-term goals to reduce County Operations utility usage and costs, minimize its impact on the environment, and assimilate sustainable practices throughout the organization.
- The County's Kresge Initiative to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement between County Public Health Services and local municipalities to clearly delineate health program roles and responsibilities, to improve health emergency-related communication, and to support mutual goals for improved regionwide health outcomes.
- The County's Public Health Services department's pursuit to renew agency accreditation from the national Public Health Accreditation Board.
- The County Board of Supervisor's Frameworks for the Future which prioritizes communities and populations in San Diego that have been historically left behind. The frameworks focus on policies surrounding racial justice, behavioral health, health equity, economic opportunity, homelessness, housing accessibility and affordability, environmental protection, government transparency, and community investments.

Additional EHQAB Findings of Support for specific DEHQ Program Areas are also attached in Appendix A and DEHQ's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operational Highlights are attached in Appendix B of this report.

In conclusion, the members of EHQAB (see Appendix C – EHQAB Membership Roster) are pleased to be of assistance to DEHQ in their protection and support of a healthy community and environment. DEHQ is to be congratulated on their fiscal discipline, as well as their proactive leadership and approach to seeking efficient and innovative solutions to traditional and emerging issues.

This report was discussed and unanimously approved at the EHQAB Meeting held on December 15, 2021. I am available to discuss this report or answer any questions, please call me at (760) 743-1214 or email vinje.middleton@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,



MALCOLM VINJE, Chair
Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

Attachments: Appendix A – EHQAB Findings of Support for DEHQ Program Areas
Appendix B – DEHQ's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operational Highlights
Appendix C – EHQAB Membership Roster

cc: Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board Members
Helen Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Land Use and Environment Group
Amy Harbert, Director, Department of Environmental Health and Quality

APPENDIX A – EHQAB FINDINGS OF SUPPORT FOR DEHQ PROGRAM AREAS

Food Safety:

- EHQAB recognizes the potential adverse public health effects of foodborne illness and the importance of working with the food industry to improve employee behaviors and food handling practices. The County should continue efforts in pursuing compliance through education and improved food facility practices and procedures.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's efforts to successfully continue the implementation of process improvements in the Food and Housing Division Plan Check Program that results in increased efficiency and enhanced customer service in support of the local economy.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's collaboration with the *Live Well San Diego* Food System Initiative and its work in supporting the food insecure population by promoting safe food donations through support and education to industry donors, markets, and local food banks and associated pantries.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's efforts in providing improved notification procedures of food facilities through their implementation of a countywide grading program for fixed and mobile food facilities, offering the public the ability to make safe dining choices. EHQAB also recognizes DEHQ's smart phone application, *SDFoodInfo.org*, for enhanced access to restaurant and food safety information.
- EHQAB supports continued communication and food safety educational outreach efforts with public school nutrition directors to ensure the safety of children while in school.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's continued support for the local fishing industry and DEHQ should continue working with the local fishing industry as their operations evolve.
- EHQAB recognizes the value of preparing for the event of a largescale foodborne illness outbreak and supports collaboration with industry, government, and academia on a tabletop exercise to strengthen emergency preparedness.

Public Health and Safety:

- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ staff's role in the outreach efforts for the Public Safety Power Shutdowns, including proactive guidance on food, hazardous materials, small public water systems, and response efforts including boil water advisories and other environmental health functions.
- EHQAB recognizes the potential adverse public health effects caused by improper body art application procedures and DEHQ's partnership with the body art industry through education and outreach. DEHQ should continue participating in the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Technical Advisory Committee and contributing to legislative updates to the Safe Body Art Act.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's leadership in the Southern California Organized Camp Technical Advisory Committee under the sponsorship of the CCDEH to promote consistent application of Organized Camp laws and regulations. DEHQ should continue their leadership role in the consistent implementation of Organized Camp laws and regulations to protect the thousands of children that attend those camps every year and collaborate in CCDEH's efforts to extend protection to children who attend day camps.
- EHQAB recognizes the potential adverse public health and safety effects caused by improper operation, maintenance and oversight of public swimming pools by pool operators and DEHQ's participation in the CCDEH California Recreational Health Technical Advisory Committee to promote consistent application of swimming pool laws and regulations.
- EHQAB supports DEHQ's efforts to bring unpermitted facilities within their jurisdiction into compliance.
- EHQAB supports continued community outreach and education to increase awareness of environmental concerns within the San Diego region.

Responsible Waste Management:

- EHQAB supports continued efforts to require extended manufacturer responsibility (EPR) for products that contain hazardous materials and products that become hazardous waste at the point of generation. Statewide legislation over the past few years has resulted in the establishment of EPR programs for items such as home-generated sharps and pharmaceuticals, architectural coating (paint), mattresses and carpets, which increases recycling opportunities and can reduce costs to local governments and rate payers.
- EHQAB supports an increase in mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events in the unincorporated areas and a North County HHW facility or expanded services for the safe collection and disposal of hazardous wastes generated by unincorporated residents.
- EHQAB supports continued efforts to require solid waste source reduction, recycling, and organic diversion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand solid waste recycling efforts, reduce the potential for nuisance generation, and to expand the opportunity for additional recycling services.

Hazardous Materials/Waste and Medical Waste:

- EHQAB supports the continued implementation of inspections and enforcement to protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper management of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, aboveground petroleum storage tanks, underground storage tanks, and medical waste.
- EHQAB supports the CERS Help Desk to provide assistance to businesses in complying with state-mandated electronic reporting requirements.
- EHQAB supports the continued collaboration with local stakeholders and other regulatory agencies to address complex environmental issues that can impact local and statewide laws and regulations.
- EHQAB supports the continued implementation of contract services with the State Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC) to inspect northbound and southbound trucks at the US/Mexico Border.
- EHQAB supports DEHQ's hazardous materials program participation in state-wide committees, groups, and organizations to adopt policies and regulations which promote a consistent and uniform approach for regulations throughout the state that will assist businesses in their compliance efforts.

Emergency Response:

- EHQAB supports the continued implementation of DEHQ's Radiological Health Program to provide protection from radiation sources in the San Diego region and for emergency preparedness during the decommissioning efforts at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS).
- EHQAB supports informational community updates/announcements on the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC) and its member agency programs in improving coordination and effective emergency response preparedness.
- EHQAB supports the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT) response to local hazardous materials-related emergencies and after-hours environmental health activities.
- EHQAB supports DEHQ's annual participation in emergency preparedness exercises for department operations center activation and response operations, as well as active participation in disaster recovery drills and exercises for the unincorporated communities.

Vector Control:

- EHQAB supports DEHQ's actions to inform the public about invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes in the San Diego region, and to use an integrated vector management approach to reduce mosquito breeding and mosquito-borne illness.
- EHQAB supports the public outreach efforts of the Vector Control Program (VCP) in raising awareness of controlling and/or eliminating mosquito-breeding in neglected swimming pools and other backyard and urban sources.

- EHQAB supports DEHQ's efforts to rapidly test for vector-borne diseases to promote the detection of and response to vector-borne diseases.
- EHQAB supports DEHQ's efforts to develop and implement mosquito pesticide resistance monitoring for mosquito-control efforts.
- EHQAB supports the VCP Disease and Diagnostic Laboratory as a regional resource that other counties and districts can rely on for their diagnostic services.

Water:

- EHQAB supports the development of programs to use alternative water sources (graywater, treated graywater, rain capture and reuse) instead of potable water supplies in a manner that prevents public and environmental health risks.
- EHQAB supports the continued oversight provided for the use of recycled water and the prevention of cross connections to potable water supplies.
- EHQAB supports the continued implementation of the Regional Water Quality Control Board approved Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) to protect surface water and groundwater from impacts associated with onsite wastewater treatment systems.

APPENDIX B – DEHQ’s Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operational Highlights

Department Description

Effective January 15, 2021, the Department of Environmental Health was renamed the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ). The vision of DEHQ is environmental and public health protection through leadership, partnership, and science. DEHQ enhances San Diegans’ quality of life by protecting public health and safeguarding environmental quality, educating the public to increase environmental awareness, and implementing and enforcing local, state, and federal laws. DEHQ has regulatory oversight of more than 40 environmental programs in the region, unincorporated area and some cities, which also includes investigations of foodborne and mosquito-borne illnesses, substandard housing, exposure to or incidents of hazardous materials, and beach water quality monitoring.

Mission Statement

Protecting the environment and enhancing public health by preventing disease, promoting environmental responsibility and, when necessary, enforcing environmental and public health laws. Our goal is “Healthy People in Healthy Communities Free from Disease due to the Environment.”

Programs and Divisions

Community Health Division

Vector Control Program (Regionwide)

- The Vector Control Program (VCP) monitors and controls vectors and the diseases that they carry. The VCP has been reducing and controlling mosquitoes and other vectors since the 1930’s by doing the following:
 - Conducting surveillance for diseases carried by vectors such as mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus, mice carrying hantavirus, and ticks carrying Lyme disease.
 - Monitoring mosquito-borne diseases in San Diego County.
 - Educating the public to help residents protect themselves from the diseases vectors can carry.
 - Implementing proactive mosquito control efforts for potential breeding areas such as neglected green pools, aerial application of larvicides, and regular treatment of 1,609 known mosquito breeding sources.
- Implementing prevention and control of fly breeding on commercial poultry ranches and prevention and control of eye gnats associated with commercial organic farms.

Occupational Health Program (Regionwide)

- The Occupational Health Program (OHP) assists County departments with maintaining safe and healthy workplaces for County employees. As part of this effort, OHP is the lead for various County programs, including asbestos and lead management, respiratory protection, and hazard communication. In addition, OHP works with the County’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to conduct environmental investigations at the homes of children with elevated blood lead levels.

Radiological Health Program (Regionwide)

- The Radiological Health Program implements state and federal regulations at facilities that possess sources of radiation. This includes inspecting the storage, use and disposal of radioactive materials and the safe use of x-ray producing equipment through a contract with the Radiological Health Branch of the State Department of Public Health.
- There are currently 2,800 registered facilities in the region with over 7,500 x-ray machines and over 125 radioactive materials licensees (Hospitals, Veterinarians, Biotech, Research, Academic Institutions and Industry).

Food and Housing Division

Food Safety Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Regulates 15,006 retail food facilities in San Diego County including restaurants, markets, and mobile food facilities.
- Conducts approximately 25,778 food facility inspections and investigations each year.
- Permits 104 annual temporary event organizer permits and 81 temporary single–event organizer permits, for events such as December Nights and the Fallbrook Avocado Festival. In a normal year without COVID restrictions, DEHQ usually permits approximately 500 organizers.
- Contracts for food safety inspections with 23 local school summer lunch programs.
- The San Diego County Fair was not a contracted event this year and was processed as a smaller scale temporary event, where 51 inspections were conducted at the San Diego County Fair.
- Collaborates with local foodbanks to educate, register and permit Charitable Feeding Organizations.

Nonprofit Event Permits and Organized Camps (Unincorporated)

Lead agency responsible for the Community Event Permit Program, which annually serves over 40 non-profit organizers. Coordinates with nine other local agencies, serving as the single point of contact for the organizer, guiding them through the permit process.

Public Housing (Unincorporated and Contracted Cities, Health Officer Program)

- Regulates 1,970 public housing sites and conduct inspections every 18 months
 - Contracted cities include Carlsbad, Coronado, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, La Mesa, Poway, San Marcos, Santee, Solano Beach and Vista.
- Incorporates the Healthy Housing principles identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure that residents of public housing have access to rental units that are kept in safe and sanitary conditions.

Public Swimming Pools (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Ensures all public swimming pools, spas, and spray grounds are maintained in safe, sanitary and healthful condition. Permits approximately 4,189 public pool and spa facilities, providing oversight for over 7,522 bodies of water.
- Conducts 9,726 inspections each year.

Organized Camps (Unincorporated, Health Officer Program)

- Regulates approximately 26 organized camps in the county, inspecting annually for safe and sanitary conditions and safe food and water for the camp visitors.

Body Art, Massage, and Detention Facility Programs (Regionwide, Health Officer Programs)

- Regulates health and safety standards for over 359 body art (tattooing, permanent cosmetics, body piercing and banding) facilities and conducts 430 inspections each year.
- Regulates 212 permitted massage facilities through local codes in the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee and Solana Beach, and conducts 197 inspections each year.
- Regulates 43 detention facilities and holding cells, inspecting the housing units and food operations.

Hazardous Materials Division

Certified Unified Program Agency (Regionwide)

- DEHQ is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the County of San Diego, and it is responsible for regulation of hazardous materials business plans and inventory, ensuring facilities with highly toxic chemicals have robust programs and plans in place, ensuring hazardous waste is managed properly,

and ensuring underground storage tanks and aboveground petroleum storage tanks are properly monitored to prevent releases of hazardous materials.

- Regulates 14,334 facilities, inspects approximately 4,718 facilities per year and on average pursues 71 formal actions, through criminal, civil or administrative enforcement cases.
- Provides assistance to businesses in complying with state-mandated electronic reporting requirements including reporting hazardous materials inventory, amount of hazardous waste being generated, emergency response plan information, underground storage tank component details, release prevention information, and more.
- The County of San Diego's Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT), a joint DEHQ and City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department team, provides response to radiological, biological and chemical emergencies throughout the county, 24 hours per day, seven days a week as well as being an active participant in the Border 2020 project.

Land and Water Quality Division

Beach Water Quality Monitoring (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Coordinates routine sampling at up to 46 public beaches during the peak summer season and notifies the public when monitoring indicates bacteria levels exceed state standards, or during other events that may pose a risk to public health.
- Collects or evaluates 6,459 water samples to ensure beach water quality was safe for recreational water contact by residents and visitors to San Diego's beaches.
- Conducts enhanced beach water monitoring at nine locations year-round achieving a daily sampling frequency in South County to notify the public when sewage-contaminated Tijuana River flows or other cross-border sewage spills may pose an increased risk of illness from water contact.

Small Drinking Water Systems (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Provides oversight of 146 public water systems with less than 200 service connections and protects public health by ensuring pure, safe and reliable drinking water supplies are provided to their customers.

Septic Systems and Water Wells (Regionwide)

- Ensures that septic systems and water wells are properly designed, sited, installed, and maintained to protect public health and the environment.
- Issues 716 septic permits and 757 water well permits yearly.

Monitoring Well Program (Regionwide)

- Provides oversight for implementing state standards and local ordinances pertaining to the construction, alteration, maintenance, and destruction of monitoring wells, inclinometers, vapor probes, cathodic protection wells, and enhanced leak detection systems.
- Permits the installation and destruction of borings and monitoring wells; and minimize risk to public health by bringing deficient monitoring wells into compliance.

Site Assessment and Mitigation Program (SAM) (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Provides oversight of assessments and cleanups to protect public health, water resources, and the environment from releases of contaminants through the Voluntary Assistance Program (VAP). Certified by the State Department of Toxic Substances Control to implement and locally enforce environmental assessments and corrective actions to clean up hazardous waste spills within the San Diego region.
- Currently assisting 163 property owners with sites contaminated by hazardous substances, including clandestine methamphetamine/fentanyl laboratories, to ensure pollution is cleaned to reduce risk to human health for property redevelopment or reoccupation.

Mobile Home Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks (Unincorporated)

- Permits and inspects 156 mobile home parks and 30 recreational vehicle parks with a total of 16,280 spaces in the unincorporated county to ensure compliance and safe and livable conditions.

Recycled Water (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Regulates the use of recycled water for the San Diego region through a delegation agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Protects the public from health risks associated with cross-connections of recycled water and drinking water supplies, as well as to prevent health risks from body contact with recycled water, by conducting 101 recycled water plan checks and 278 cross-connection inspections each year.

Sewage Haulers (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Ensures that public health risks are prevented from the improper collection, hauling and disposal of sewage from septic tanks and chemical toilets by 267 registered sewage hauler vehicles in the region.

Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (Regionwide, excluding City of San Diego)

- The County of San Diego Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is certified by the State Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to ensure the proper operation, permitting and closure of solid waste facilities, operations and disposal sites (landfill, transfer station, composting, and construction, demolition and inert debris).
- Regulates 61 active and 54 closed solid waste facilities, operations, and disposal sites.

Household Hazardous Waste Program (Unincorporated)

- The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides HHW collection services to unincorporated residents.
- In total, HHW collection services including partners facilities served 4,332 unincorporated residents and resulted in the proper disposal of 399,168 pounds (199 tons) of HHW.

Department Stakeholders

- Biocom
- Building Industry Association
- California Restaurant Association
- Environmental Health Coalition
- Groundwater Association
- Gaslamp Association
- North County Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association
- San Diego County Farm Bureau
- San Diego County Industrial Environmental Association
- San Diego County Lodging Association
- San Diego County Sewage Haulers Association
- San Diego County Taxpayers Association
- San Diego County Disposal Association
- San Diego Food and Beverage Association
- Southern California Rental Housing Association

Department Statistics

Number of Staff: 309 FTE

Budget: \$55.7 million

Sources of Revenue: Fees and Deposits - \$26.3 million

Vector Benefit Assessment - \$13.4 million

Revenue Agreements – State and Other - \$6.0 million

Realignment Revenue (share from HHSA) - \$1.4 million

Other (Reserves; Fund Balance; Settlement for 1-time projects; GPR) - \$8.6 million

Department Awards and Accomplishments

- California Restaurant Association: Exceptional Partners Award (2021)
- NACo Achievement Award: Underground Storage Tank Plan Check from Paper to Virtual (2021)
- NACo Achievement Award: Simultaneous Dengue Virus 1-4 Testing (2020)
- NACo Achievement Award: SDFoodInfo.org (2019)
- Continuing Challenge Award - Responder of the Year: San Diego HIRT Team (2019)
- NACo Achievement Award: Making Camps Safer Through Communication, Education and Preparedness (2018)
- NACo Achievement Award: CERS Help Desk (2018)
- CHMIA: Howard Eddy Award (2018)
- ACA: Paul Somers Golden Acorn Award: Contributions to the field of Organized Camps (2018)
- AMCA: Outstanding Vector Technician (2018)
- IEA Environmental Excellence Award: CERS Help Desk Team (2017)
- NACo: LUEG Compliance Team Approach (2017)
- NACo: Vector Control Program Response to Invasive Aedes (2017)
- CAPIO: Zika Virus Outreach Campaign (2017)
- CUPA: Outstanding CUPA Individual (2017)
- CHMIA: Lifetime Membership Award (2017)
- CalRecycle/CCDEH: Ralph Hunter Memorial Award (2017)
- NACo: Beating Zika to the Punch: Open Communications to Defuse a Health Scare (2017)
- NACo: Vector Control Program Response to Invasive Aedes (2017)

By the Numbers

Community Health Division

- Monitored and treated, when needed, 1,609 known mosquito breeding sites
- Responded to 5,895 complaints and requests for service about mosquitoes, rats, flies, and other vectors
- Investigated 613 aerial identified neglected swimming pools
- Registered over 2,800 facilities that possess radioactive sources
- Registered over 7,500 x-ray machines and over 125 radioactive materials licensees (Hospitals, Veterinarians, Biotech, Research, Academic Institutions and Industry)
- Conducted 54 investigations involving radioactive materials or x-ray units

Food and Housing Division

- Over 21,736 permitted facilities including retail food, public pools, public housing, body art and massage facilities
- Conducted over 37,907 inspections of these facilities
- Issued 1,534 new health permits, not including temporary event permits
- Renewed/processed 104 annual temporary event organizer permits and 81 temporary single-event organizer permits
- Renewed/processed 1,052 annual temporary event food vendor permits and 231 temporary single-event food vendor permits
- Inspected 296 temporary event food vendors
- Responded to 103 food recalls, advising retailers of the recall and coordinating with them to ensure that affected foods were taken off the shelves
- Responded to 985 complaints with an average response time of 2.3 days
- Contracted for food safety inspections with 23 local school summer lunch programs
- Inspected 51 temp event food vendors at San Diego County Fair (did not contract with DEHQ this year due to COVID-19)

Land and Water Quality Division

- Coordinated routine sampling at up to 46 public beaches during the peak summer and conducted enhanced beach water monitoring at nine locations year-round achieving a daily sampling frequency i in South County
- Collected or evaluated 6459 beach water samples
- Provided oversight for 146 small drinking water systems
- Issued 716 septic system permits and conducted 757 installation inspections for new construction and repairs
- Reviewed 255 water well permits for new construction and destructions
- Issued 507 monitoring well permits for new construction and destructions
- Oversight of 163 VAP hazardous waste spill cleanups
- Closed 40 VAP cases upon completion of cleanup objectives
- Provided oversight for 156 mobile home and RV parks with 16,280 spaces
- Completed 132 plan checks for recycled water projects and 338 cross connection inspections
- Inspected 267 registered sewage haulers
- Conducted 464 solid waste facility inspections
- Collected 399,168 pounds (199 tons) of HHW from 4,332 residents for proper recycling or disposal

Hazardous Materials Division

- Regulates 14,334 facilities
- Completed 4,718 inspections
- Initiated 41 formal enforcement actions
- Investigated or responded to 540 complaints and HIRT responses
- Responded to 6,131 customer service calls and emails
- Accepted 13,285 Hazardous Materials Electronic Reporting submittals
- Received and processed 1,138 calls at the CERS Help Desk
- Processed 1,470 plan check applications for hazardous materials facilities undergoing new construction or tenant improvements
- Processed 197 Underground Storage Tank (UST) plan check applications; 29 for UST removals, 15 for new UST installations, and 153 for UST repairs/modifications

APPENDIX C

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Established 1989

INITIAL APPOINTMENT DATES/CURRENT TERM EXPIRATION DATES

Seat 1	Vizzier, Joseph Michael	Initial Appointment	4/30/2019
District 1		Expiration	4/30/2022
Seat 2	Zolezzi, Stephen	Initial Appointment	10/26/2004
District 2		Expiration	10/26/2022
Seat 3	Hanna, Cliff	Initial Appointment	1/25/2011
District 3		Expiration	1/25/2021
Seat 4	McCray, Carlos	Initial Appointment	6/23/2020
District 4		Expiration	7/01/2023
Seat 5	<i>vacant</i>	Initial Appointment	
District 5		Expiration	
Seat 6	Sanchez, Lucero	Initial Appointment	3/2/2021
District 3		Expiration	3/2/2024
Seat 7	Roy, Toby	Initial Appointment	11/17/2020
District 5		Expiration	11/17/2023
Seat 8	Moulton, Michael	Initial Appointment	3/2/2021
District 2		Expiration	3/2/2024
Seat 9	<i>vacant</i>	Initial Appointment	
District 4		Expiration	
Seat 10	Allen, Joseph	Initial Appointment	7/24/2018
District 1		Expiration	7/24/2021
Seat 11	Roff, Douglas	Initial Appointment	7/9/2019
DEHQ		Expiration	7/10/2021
Seat 12	Cantrell, Lee	Initial Appointment	3/22/2005
DEHQ		Expiration	3/22/2023
Seat 13	Heifetz, Dr. Ruth	Initial Appointment	3/27/1989
DEHQ		Expiration	6/30/2022
Seat 14	Vinje, Malcolm	Initial Appointment	3/27/1989
DEHQ		Expiration	6/30/2022
Seat 15	Kellum, David	Initial Appointment	3/12/2013
DEHQ		Expiration	11/03/2023
Seat 16	Simpson, Byron	Initial Appointment	12/10/2019
DEHQ		Expiration	7/29/2023
Seat 17	Chowdhury, Zohir	Initial Appointment	12/10/2019
DEHQ		Expiration	11/04/2023