



County of San Diego

AMY HARBERT
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY
P.O. BOX 129261, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-9261
Phone: (858) 505-6700 or (800) 253-9933 Fax: (858) 505-6786
www.sdcDEHQ.org

HEATHER BUONOMO
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

January 21, 2026

TO: Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice Chair
Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD – 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Provided for your information is a copy of the County of San Diego, Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board's 2025 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 2025 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) 505-6672, if you have any questions regarding the Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board's Annual Report or their observations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Harbert".

Amy Harbert, Director

Attachment: Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board 2025 Annual Report



Scott Snyder, Chair

County of San Diego

Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

LaRosa Watson, Vice Chair

January 21, 2026

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice Chair
Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond

ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

Dear Honorable San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

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, 2025, to December 31, 2025. During this past year, EHQAB met nine times on the following dates: January 15th, February 19th, April 16th, May 14th, June 18th, July 16th, September 17th, October 15th and December 17th.

EHQAB consists of 17 professional, industry and community members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, with currently 10 active appointed members. EHQAB 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; state small drinking water systems; body art; mobile home parks; recycled water systems; wells and monitoring wells, onsite wastewater treatment 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 (LEA), reduces diseases carried by rats and mosquitoes through implementation of the Vector Control Program (VCP), and helps to ensure safe workplaces for County employees through the Occupational Health Program.

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 focus on preparedness and statewide leadership and engagement in emerging issues and regulations.

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Continued 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. Supported County efforts in the Proclamation of a Local Emergency for U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Pollution Environmental Crisis. Coordinated with other County departments, and local, state and federal agencies, researchers and stakeholders to address the potential environmental, economic and public health impacts.
- Continued efforts to improve the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program by leveraging the use of droplet digital Polymerase Chain Reaction (ddPCR) testing method, which reduces public notification time from 24 hours to same-day results, enhancing communication and protection of public health. The program also supports other counties and statewide studies exploring the adoption and integration of ddPCR into recreational water quality programs, to better protect public health.
- Continued efforts in US-Mexico border environmental health activities such as hazardous materials and hazardous waste transporter inspections.
- Efforts to support development in communities and reduce barriers to building housing, from modernizing regulations to streamlining permitting processes and guaranteeing timely onsite wastewater treatment system reviews to help facilitate the production and provision of housing in the unincorporated county.
- Leadership in emergency response and disaster recovery which benefited not only San Diego County, but also other agencies throughout the state. DEHQ's emergency response efforts included response and technical expertise for over 80 lithium-ion battery incidents, including fires and continued cleanup efforts following the 2024 fire at the Gateway Energy Storage battery energy storage system. Participation on the Marijuana Enforcement Task Force, to relay guidelines for hazardous materials to cannabis businesses operating without a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) permit. This collaboration with other County departments, city agencies and law enforcement agencies ensures both local and state laws are met and helps to identify and manage health and environmental risks associated with illegal cannabis business activities.
- Continued efforts in promoting environmental justice by actively participating in the CUPA Forum Board Environmental Justice Committee, which supports efforts to coordinate state and local environmental justice projects that seek to protect public health from hazardous material releases in underserved communities. Additionally, continued efforts to enhance outreach in underserved communities to help protect residents from mosquito-borne illness prevention.
- Active coordination with other cities, state and federal agencies, as well as other County departments, for the prevention of illness related to environmental health and public health risks. This included coordination with the City of Carlsbad to address a significant spike in mosquito breeding at an inaccessible water body, which ultimately resulted in a successful reduction of mosquito activity within the adjacent neighborhood.
- Efforts to look for emerging and endemic vectors and investigation of vector-borne infectious disease cases including through collaborations with the County Department of Public Health Services, other government agencies, and academic institutions on surveillance and monitoring of vector-borne diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever.
- Continued collaboration with the County Department of Public Health Services and Public Health Laboratory in response and investigation of, foodborne and waterborne illness reports, cases, and outbreaks. This included two large scale foodborne illness outbreaks involving Salmonella; one that required a rapid initial response by DEHQ to control the spread of the illness by removing products and ill employees from a local food facility; and another that is still under investigation by State partners to determine the source of contamination so proper steps can be taken to remove any impacted products (statewide).

- Development of a mosquito pesticide resistance monitoring program that uses genetic analyses, laboratory studies, and field trials to determine the most efficacious pesticides and treatment methods to protect public health. This data-informed approach was used to validate successful pesticide applications in difficult-to-treat areas with thousands of mosquito breeding sources and help stem the spread of West Nile virus.
- Continued collaboration with County Department of Public Health Services to provide seamless County response in the investigation of vector-borne illnesses. This resulted in nearly 30 disease investigations for dengue to help reduce mosquito activity and prevent the spread of disease.
- Swift response to control mosquitoes and protect the public from the spread of West Nile virus across several neighborhoods in the cities of San Diego and La Mesa. These mosquito control and prevention efforts continued for four months in response to ongoing detections of elevated virus levels in mosquito populations and involved two truck-mounted adulticide treatments, weekly surveillance and larvicide treatments, and continuous public outreach on mosquito prevention. During this time period, more than 175 mosquito batches tested positive for West Nile virus, marking a record high for the County.
- Continued collaboration on region-wide technical advisory groups and involvement in reviewing proposed statewide regulations regarding permanent food facilities, mobile food facilities, public swimming pools, body art, camps, solid waste, septic systems, underground storage tanks, aboveground petroleum storage, hazardous waste, hazardous materials business plans, emergency response, accidental release prevention, enforcement, and training.
- Leadership of statewide working groups and collaboration with professional organizations, industry, and stakeholders to engage on emerging issues and trends that impact regulatory programs and provide technical feedback on proposed new legislation.
- 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.

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

EHQAB supports DEHQ's efforts to:

- Work towards the long-term goal of electrifying 100% of DEHQ's fleet vehicles with planned replacements, as feasible, and in accordance with the County's Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap.
- Continue to respond to the effects of climate change and impacts to DEHQ's regulatory programs.
- Improve local vector- and food-borne illness surveillance to better monitor and proactively respond to emerging environmental public health risks.
- Provide ongoing emergency planning to respond to extreme weather events.

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

EHQAB supports and encourages DEHQ's:

- Efforts to educate and engage the public and stakeholders on the updated 2025 Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) that will provide more flexibility than state law, while ensuring protection of local groundwater. DEHQ conducted two in-person training sessions with stakeholders to highlight the new requirements and help answer any questions regarding the updated requirements. DEHQ also updated forms and guidance documents to reflect the new changes. The revised LAMP went into effect in February 2025.
- Continued work on Community Needs Assessments, including the Vector Control Program's increased focus on outreach efforts in underserved communities and to speakers of languages other than English. Concluded efforts on the Mobilehome Park (MHP) Program Community Needs Assessments by evaluating

results of our County Enterprise Resource Questionnaire, developing three newsletter handouts about different County Enterprise services, sending out newsletters to MHP contacts, and developing a resource webpage.

- Efforts to support the Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) program by obtaining a state grant that was used to offset annual permit costs. Through the use of this grant, DEHQ was able to waive renewal permit fees for 57 existing MEHKOs and waive initial permit fees for 99 new operators. Currently, there are approximately 154 active MEHKOS in the region.
- Continued efforts to offer stakeholder and technical outreach sessions in the nine threshold languages through the use of simultaneous translations and live caption language translations.
- 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.
- Efforts to develop metrics to monitor usage of online services and to continue expanding and/or advancing all online services including: California Environmental Reporting System (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.
- Ongoing efforts to collaborate with stakeholders, including the establishment of new partnerships, such as recent engagement with shooting range owners to collaborate on industry guidance for the management of hazardous materials and wastes.
- Engagement with the regulated community by offering Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) program workshops and with environmental health students by hosting a CUPA career day.
- Continued focus on regulatory education to achieve compliance, while implementing enforcement when necessary to achieve state mandates.

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

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Efforts to leverage Power BI to create dashboards to automate data calculations and visualization for Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring, resulting in savings of 20 hours of staff and management's time each month with cost savings of approximately \$47,040 a year.
- Utilization of in-house technology such as 3D printing and additive engineering to manufacture parts for mosquito traps, dippers and other field equipment. Over the last two years, DEHQ has created unique innovations that have made operations more efficient, resulting in thousands of dollars of savings each year. As the use of this technology grows in the future, it additionally creates opportunities for continued innovation and flexibility to create new or improved pieces of equipment that would not be readily available otherwise. Explore the use of tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help improve operational efficiencies, communications, customer service and to prepare for the workforce of the future.
- 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 (47% of all DEHQ payments, up from 41% last year).
- Use of lighter and more efficient rechargeable batteries for mosquito traps. This resulted in cost savings of approximately \$2,000 a year. The batteries were also 1/3 the weight of previous batteries creating a more ergonomic solution for field staff.
- Use of new mosquito control techniques, including an environmentally friendly approach called Wide Area Larvicide Spraying (WALS) to help reduce mosquito breeding at a cemetery. This truck-mounted WALS

treatment was highly efficient, as it took 30 minutes to complete compared to over five hours for a typical hand-based treatment approach.

- Implementation of a new polymerase chain reaction (PCR) lab test that can analyze mosquito samples for three viruses (Zika, chikungunya and dengue) in one test which is anticipated to create efficiencies by saving staff time and cost of reagents by 33%.
- Initiated implementation of the recently certified comprehensive program Environmental Impact Report for the integrated vector management program, which allows for incorporation of additional mosquito and vector control methods.
- Implementation of a more streamlined process of resolving enforcement cases with commonly cited violations by sending out settlement proposal letters to first-time violators mitigating the need for a Show-Cause meeting. DEHQ is now sending out Stipulation and Orders for violations related to Hazardous Materials Business Plan training and Failure to obtain/maintain an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ID number. On average, this saves 5 hours per case and DEHQ conducts approximately 30 of these cases per year saving 150 total hours and approximately \$29,400 per year.
- Efforts to implement several process improvements in the hazardous materials program, including enforcement streamlining, targeted outreach for fee recovery, and new data dashboards, that enhanced efficiency and resulted in over \$43,553 in cost savings.
- Utilization of a free remote imaging resource to efficiently identify and mitigate previously unrecognized unmaintained pools and other urban water sources that were breeding or had the potential to breed mosquitoes.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to streamline operations, contain costs, enhance service delivery in order to continue to be recognized as a leader in the industry and awarded for implementing best practices.

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

EHQAB recognizes and supports DEHQ's:

- Efforts to retain, maintain and recruit qualified, highly skilled staff, acknowledging the value and expertise experienced staff provide.
- Efforts to assess annual 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.
- Continued efforts to conduct ongoing in-depth program analysis of operations, service levels, permits, and fee structures to determine programmatic efficiencies.
- Continued efforts to utilize technology as a means of identifying program efficiencies and contain costs. Explore the use of AI to identify other process improvements that would lead to cost savings.
- 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 daily synchronization of inspection information from DEHQ's data system to the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), allowing businesses to see the most recent compliance information regarding their facilities.
- Successful completion of two County internal audits of our administrative and financial practices without any findings that required changes to our procedures.

EHQAB acknowledges recent awards and recognition DEHQ has received:

- National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award: Vector Control Media Campaign Translation: This award was received for their translated media campaign. The Vector Control Program translated its media campaign content into all eight county threshold languages and used digital media platforms to target speakers of these languages. This media campaign strategy successfully increased engagement from these groups, as compared with baseline English media content, as they responded to the educational media content in their preferred languages.
- California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Excellence in Environmental Health Award: Acknowledges outstanding programs that are innovative, creative, and effective in protecting environmental health. This year DEHQ's Vector Control Program was awarded the 2025 Excellence in Environmental Health for 3D printing innovation. Market shortages led to the initial launch of 3D printing in the program, but the technology has since saved the Vector Control Program time and money, and has increased productivity, while helping to prevent the spread of vector-borne illnesses in our region. This creative approach to business has been shared with other vector agencies in California and beyond, positioning the team as leaders for 3D printing use in the field of vector control.
- California Public Information Officials (CAPIO) Star Award: These awards recognize excellence in government communications across more than 40 categories, including community event coverage, city and county service information, human interest, public safety, social media, and more. DEHQ's Food Program earned first place in the Instruction/Training category for the video *"Keeping Your Restaurant Vermin Free"*.
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Award of Distinction: This awards program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia, and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. DEHQ's Food Program took home the Award of Distinction in the Instructional/Training category for the video *"Keeping Your Restaurant Vermin Free"*.

EHQAB also recognizes and supports the following environmental or public health issues within the scope of other agencies, but not within the scope of DEHQ:

EHQAB recognizes and supports:

- The County Board of Supervisor's strategic initiatives which prioritize 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.
- The County's efforts on the cross-border transboundary pollution crisis includes public outreach and partner engagement, for example, sharing information with federal agencies for their ATSDR Exposure Survey (ACE) and the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) studies and sharing information published by the local Air Pollution Control District who is charged with air monitoring in the region.
- The County's status as a pro-housing jurisdiction and the County Board of Supervisor's actions to assist development in unincorporated communities, from modernizing regulations and streamlining permitting processes, to waiving fees for certain types of housing, establishing a regional funding source and creating a Housing Blueprint to explore everything that the County can do to facilitate the production and provision of housing to all people, at all income levels.
- 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; and the Food Justice Community Action Plan which seeks to support an increase in food access to counteract food insecurity security throughout the region.

- The County's efforts in implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan, to reduce the region'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 Strategic Energy Plan 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 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 them to buy and use more EVs, and replacing more than 500 existing gasoline-powered County vehicles with EVs by 2027 or in accordance with timelines as defined by State regulations. The long-term goal is to electrify 100% of DEHQ's fleet vehicles with planned battery replacements, as resources become available, and in consideration of all best-practice safety and disposal measures for lithium-ion battery use. Strive to use the most current battery technology.
- 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 actions to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and an increased focus on water resources in designated at-risk areas, as hotter and drier weather conditions spurred by climate change could reduce water supply in San Diego County.
- The County's commitment to reducing opioid addiction through outreach, education, surveillance, prevention tactics and partnerships with local health partners and law enforcement agencies. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency departments, which include Public Health Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Medical Care Services, are committed to encouraging healthy behaviors, which include the prevention of substance use and abuse. Additionally, DEHQ Hazardous Incident Response Team partners with first responders to support the decontamination of clandestine drug laboratories. The County's multi-agency collaboration to address issues along the U.S-Mexico border that are connected to public health, disease investigation, food safety, water, and the environment and international security.
- 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 re-accreditation achievement from the national Public Health Accreditation Board.
- The County Department of Public Work's (DPW's) efforts to conduct outreach and education on the topics of stormwater source reduction, pollution prevention, and recycling of a variety of materials.
- The County's commitment to collaboration is reflected in DEHQ's continued support of the DPW's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program through cross-training and as needed field support, particularly during emergencies.

Additional EHQAB Findings of Support for specific DEHQ Program Areas are attached in Appendix A of this report. DEHQ's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Highlights are attached in Appendix B, and , Appendix C provides data tables and visualizations that summarize some of the above mentioned operational highlights for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

In conclusion, the members of EHQAB (see Appendix D – 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 continued fiscal discipline, perseverance during a challenging labor market, continued efforts to assess potential ocean water impacts from cross-border sewage spills, as well as their proactive leadership and approach to seeking efficient and innovative solutions to traditional and emerging issues in environmental and public health.

This report was discussed and unanimously approved at the EHQAB Meeting, held on January 21, 2026. I am available to discuss this report or answer any questions, please call me at (858) 505-6794 or email scott@snydergeologic.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Snyder" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Snyder, Chair
Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

Attachments: Appendix A – EHQAB Findings of Support for DEHQ Program Areas
Appendix B – DEHQ's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Highlights
Appendix C – DEHQ's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Charts and Graphs
Appendix D – EHQAB Membership Roster

cc: Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board Members
Ebony Shelton, Chief Administrative Officer
Dahvia Lynch, 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:

- Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board (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 Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ)'s efforts to successfully continue the implementation of process improvements in the Food 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 the potential adverse public health and safety effects caused by improper operation and oversight of retail food facility operations and DEHQ's leadership in the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Food Policy Committee. The CCDEH Food Policy Committee brings together Environmental Health Specialists from counties throughout Southern California to work together to promote consistent application of the California Retail Food Code laws and regulations.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's participation in the Southern California Food Technical Advisory Committee, state Food Policy Committee, and the Mobile Food Facility subcommittee, under the sponsorship of the CCDEH to promote consistent application of the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) and serve as industry and regulatory leaders in CRFC implementation.

Public Health and Safety:

- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ staff's role in the outreach efforts in emergency response related to DEHQ programs, which include but are not limited to Public Safety Power Shutdowns, including proactive guidance on food, swimming pools, hazardous materials, state small water systems, and response efforts including boil water advisories and other environmental health functions.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's ongoing support for the local fishing industry and encourages continued collaboration as industry operations evolve. The Board also commends DEHQ's efforts to keep the public informed by implementing Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)'s fish advisory guidance, now posted in San Diego Bay, Mission Bay, and El Capitan Reservoir.
- 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 CCDEH Technical Advisory Committee and contributing to legislative updates to the Safe Body Art Act.
- EHQAB recognizes DEHQ's participation in the Southern California Organized Camp Technical Advisory Committee under the sponsorship of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) to promote consistent application of Organized Camp laws and regulations. DEHQ should continue their participation 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 leadership 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 health concerns within the San Diego region.

Responsible Waste Management:

- 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.
- EHQAB supports continued efforts to require extended producer 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.

Hazardous Materials/Waste and Medical Waste:

- 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 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 DEHQ's hazardous materials program participation in statewide 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.
- 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 the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) Help Desk to provide assistance to businesses in complying with state-mandated electronic reporting requirements.

Emergency Response:

- 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.
- EHQAB supports the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT) response to local hazardous materials-related emergencies and after-hours environmental health activities. Additionally, EHQAB supports HIRT's collaboration with other agencies, both within and external to the County, to help support emergency preparedness and effective 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, such as those related to 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.

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 VCP's efforts for the early detection of public health threats, such as West Nile virus and dengue, through comprehensive vector surveillance which includes weekly mosquito and other vector trapping throughout the county.
- 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 as a regional resource that other agencies, counties, and districts can rely on for collaboration and laboratory diagnostic services.

Water:

- EHQAB supports the Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program's efforts to safeguard public health by routinely sampling recreational waters, evaluating bacterial water quality, and issuing timely public advisories when sewage contamination or elevated bacteria levels are detected.
- EHQAB supports DEHQ's regulatory oversight and permitting activities that ensure wells and subsurface installations—including monitoring wells, inclinometers, vapor probes, and cathodic protection wells—are constructed, maintained, and destroyed in accordance with state and local requirements, thereby safeguarding groundwater quality and public health.
- EHQAB supports 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 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 2024-25 Operational Highlights

Department Description

The vision of Department of Environmental Health and Quality (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.”

Program Highlights

Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Coordinates routine sampling at 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 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.

Certified Unified Program Agency (Regionwide)

- DEHQ is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the County of San Diego, overseeing the regulation of businesses that hazardous materials and hazardous waste to protect public health and the environment. To fulfill these responsibilities, DEHQ implements multiple State-delegated programs in accordance with State law, including:
 - Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program: Ensures businesses report hazardous materials and maintain emergency response plans to assist and protect first responders. This program is delegated by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).
 - Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Treatment Program: Regulates the proper handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste. This program is delegated by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).
 - Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program: Prevents leaks from USTs storing hazardous substances. This program is delegated by the State Water Resources Control Board.
 - Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Program: Requires spill prevention planning for facilities with large petroleum storage. This program is delegated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
 - California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program –Requires risk management planning for facilities handling large quantities of hazardous chemicals. This program is delegated by CalEPA.
- Provides compliance assistance through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), a Duty Desk for technical support, and a complaint line for public reporting.
- Pursues enforcement through administrative, civil, and/or criminal actions when necessary to obtain compliance, deter violations and protect public health and the environment. The program uses a progressive approach, starting with education and technical assistance, and escalating to administrative orders, penalties, and/or legal referrals when needed.

Food Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Regulates and annually inspects retail food facilities in San Diego County including restaurants, markets, and mobile food facilities.
- Permits temporary events (annual and single-event organizer permits), for events such as December Nights and the Fallbrook Avocado Festival.
- Collaborates with local foodbanks to educate, register and permit Charitable Feeding Organizations.
- Implements the Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) and Cottage Food Operation (CFO) programs, providing a low-cost opportunity for persons from all socioeconomic statuses to initiate a food business from home.

Hazardous Incident Response (Regionwide)

- The Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) is a joint unit operated by DEHQ and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. It provides 24/7 emergency response to chemical, biological, and radiological incidents throughout San Diego County. HIRT plays a critical role in protecting public health and the environment during hazardous materials emergencies and additionally participates in Border 2025, a binational initiative aimed at improving environmental and emergency response coordination along the U.S. – Mexico border.

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

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

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

- Regulates health and safety standards and conducts annual inspections for body art (tattooing, permanent cosmetics, body piercing and branding) facilities.
- Regulates and inspects permitted massage facilities through local codes in the cities of Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Poway, San Marcos, Santee and Solana Beach.
- Regulates detention facilities and holding cells, inspecting the housing units and food operations.

Medical Waste Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Oversees the proper handling, storage, treatment, and disposal, of medical waste generated by healthcare facilities, labs, and similar operations. This program is delegated by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Mobilehome Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks Program (Unincorporated)

- Permits and inspects mobilehome parks and recreational vehicle parks in the unincorporated county to ensure compliance and safe and livable conditions.

Nonprofit Community Event Permits (Unincorporated)

- Lead agency responsible for the Community Event Permit Program, which permits events run by nonprofit organizers. Coordinates with nine other local agencies, serving as the single point of contact for the organizer, guiding them through the permit process.

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.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (Septic Systems) Program (Regionwide)

- Ensures that septic systems are properly designed, sited, installed, and maintained to protect public health and the environment.

Organized Camps Program (Unincorporated, Health Officer Program)

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

Pools Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Permits public pool and spa facilities, ensuring all public swimming pools, spas, and spray grounds are maintained in safe, sanitary and healthful condition.

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 Radiologic Health Branch of the State Department of Public Health.

Recycled Water Program (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 recycled water project plan checks and recycled water inspections, including spray coverage tests, valve tag reviews and cross connection inspections.

Sewage Haulers Program (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 registered sewage hauler vehicles in the region.

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

- Provides oversight of contaminated site investigations and cleanups, including through the Voluntary Assistance Program (VAP). SAM works with property owners, developers, and regulatory agencies to ensure safe redevelopment and long-term environmental protection.
- Assists property owners with sites contaminated by clandestine methamphetamine or fentanyl laboratories, including coordination with law enforcement and other agencies, to ensure proper remediation and reduce risk to human health.
- Implements and enforces environmental assessments and cleanups for certain hazardous waste releases through corrective action oversight. Ensures responsible parties assess the extent of contamination and carry out appropriate remediation to protect public health and the environment.

Small Drinking Water Systems Program (Regionwide, Health Officer Program)

- Provides oversight of state small water systems with 5 to 14 service connections, to protect public health by ensuring pure, safe and reliable drinking water supplies are provided to customers.

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 active and closed solid waste facilities, operations, and disposal sites.

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 1930s 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 for mosquito-borne disease throughout the County of San Diego, especially in areas near known historical breeding sites, at or near complaints and service requests (including unmaintained swimming pools), and from a wide range of locations, to assess mosquito species diversity, abundance, and disease prevalence.
- Educating the public to help residents protect themselves from the disease's 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 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.

Wells 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.
- Issues water well permits and ensures they are properly designed, sited, installed, and maintained to protect public health and the environment.

Department Stakeholder Examples

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

Department Statistics

Number of Staff: 346 FTE

FY24-25 Budget: \$67.5 million

Sources of Revenue:

- Fees and Deposits - \$40.3 million
- Vector Benefit Assessment - \$15.0 million
- Revenue Agreements – State and Other - \$5.1 million
- Realignment Revenue (allocation received from Health and Human Service Agency - \$1.4 million
- Other (Reserves; Fund Balance; Settlement for 1-time projects; GPR) - \$5.7 million

Department Awards and Accomplishments

- California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Excellence in Environmental Health Award: Innovative use of 3D printing (2025)
- California Public Information Officials (CAPIO) Star Award: Instruction/Training category for the video "Keeping Your Restaurant Vermin Free" (2025)
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Award of Distinction: Instructional/Training category for the video "Keping Your Restaurant Vermin Free"
- National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award: Vector Control Program Media Campaign Translation (2025)
- California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Excellence in Environmental Health Award: Implementation of droplet digital Polymerase Chain Reaction (ddPCR) (2024)
- National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award: Plan Check Inquiry Form (2023)
- NACo Achievement Award: Beach and Bay ddPCR Testing (2023)
- NACo Achievement Award: Eye Gnat Trap Improvements (2022)
- NACo Achievement Award: Plan Check Digital Review Portal (2022)
- California Restaurant Association: Exceptional Partners Award (2021)
- NACo Achievement Award: Underground Storage Tank Plan Check from Paper to Virtual (2021)
- California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Excellence in Environmental Health Award: COVID 19 Communication (2020)
- 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 Hazardous Incident Response Team (2019)

County Partnerships

- Partnered with County Public Health Services to protect public health by reducing the risk of vector, water, and food-borne illnesses by:
 - Maintained preparedness to respond to all confirmed vector-borne disease referrals.
 - Collected or evaluated 12,860 beach water samples
 - Obtained final approvals from United States Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Public Health, and Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program to implement droplet digital Polymerase Chain Reaction (ddPCR) as an alternative beach water quality testing method for faster sample analysis (i.e., less than 24 hours)
 - Responded to 363 food-borne illness complaints
 - Investigated 47 childhood lead poisoning cases
 - Partnered to address the public health crisis in the Tijuana River Valley, including through daily monitoring of beach water quality in South County

By the Numbers

Community Health Division

- Monitored and treated, when needed, 1,556 known mosquito breeding sites
- Responded to 3,021 complaints and requests for service about mosquitoes, rats, flies, and other vectors
- Investigated 129 aerial identified neglected swimming pools
- Regulated over 2,800 x-ray machines and over 125 radioactive materials licensees (Hospitals, Veterinarians, Biotech, Research, Academic Institutions and Industry)
- Conducted 76 investigations involving radioactive materials or x-ray units

Food, Water, and Housing Division

- Over 31,809 permitted facilities including retail food, public pools, public housing, body art and massage facilities
- Conducted over 59,670 inspections of these facilities

- Issued 2,050 new health permits, not including temporary event permits
- Renewed/processed 126 annual temporary event organizer permits and 678 temporary single-event organizer permits
- Renewed/processed 1,439 annual temporary event food vendor permits, and 1,920 temporary single-event food vendor permits
- Inspected 2,368 temporary event food vendors
- Permitted 178 community events run by nonprofit organizers
- Responded to 109 food recalls, advising retailers of the recall and coordinating with them to ensure that affected foods were taken off the shelves
- Responded to 1,351 complaints with an average response time of 1.8 days
- Regulated 23 organized camps
- Inspected 151 booth and mobile food vendors at the San Diego County Fair
- Coordinated routine sampling at 114 public beaches during the peak summer and conducted enhanced beach water monitoring at nine locations year-round achieving a daily sampling frequency in South County
- Collected or evaluated 12,860 beach water samples
- Provided oversight for 15 small drinking water systems
- Issued 714 septic system permits and conducted 967 installation inspections for new construction, repairs, modifications, and stand alone.
- Reviewed 177 water well permits for new construction and destructions
- Issued 461 monitoring well permits for new construction and destructions
- Provided oversight for 187 mobilehome and recreational vehicle parks with 16,269 spaces
- Completed 37 new and 34 existing system plan checks for recycled water projects and 120 cross connection inspections
- Inspected 54 registered sewage haulers, conducting 68 inspections
- Conducted 534 solid waste facility inspections at 66 active and 52 closed solid waste facilities, operations, and disposal sites

Hazardous Materials Division

- Regulated 15,048 facilities
- Completed 6,103 inspections
- Initiated 150 formal enforcement actions
- Investigated or responded to 451 Hazardous Incident Response Team responses
- Responded to 9,471 customer service calls and emails
- Reviewed 21,710 and accepted 16,716 Hazardous Materials Electronic Reporting submittals
- Received and processed 510 calls at the California Environmental Reporting System Help Desk
- Processed 1,003 plan check applications for hazardous materials facilities undergoing new construction or tenant improvements
- Processed 135 Underground Storage Tank (UST) plan check applications; 30 for UST removals, 21 for new UST installations, and 184 for UST repairs/modifications
- Guided 573 unpermitted facilities with hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and medical waste towards compliance with permitting requirements
- Oversight of 125 Voluntary Assistance Program (VAP) hazardous waste spill cleanups
- Closed 12 VAP cases upon completion of cleanup objectives

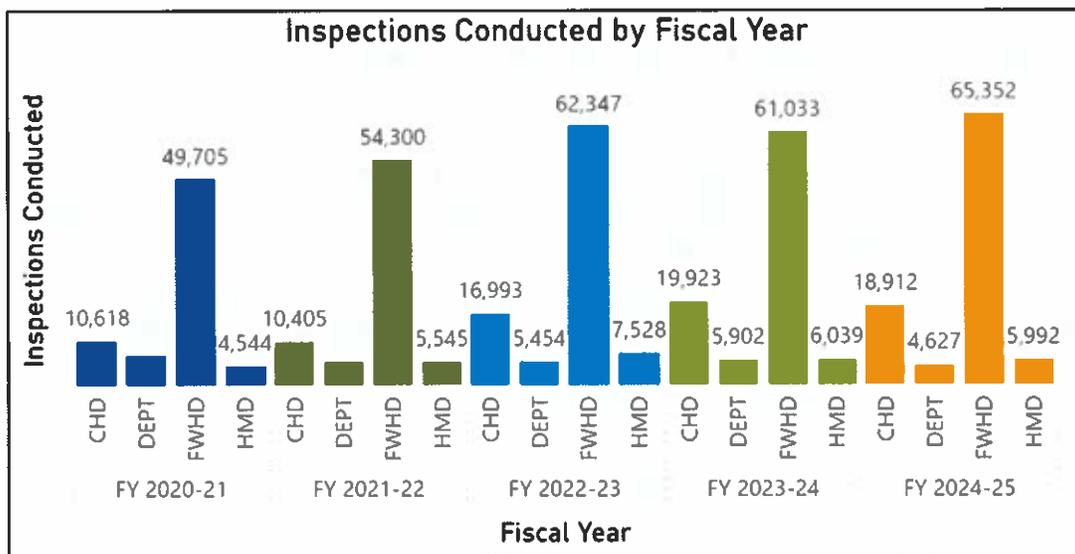
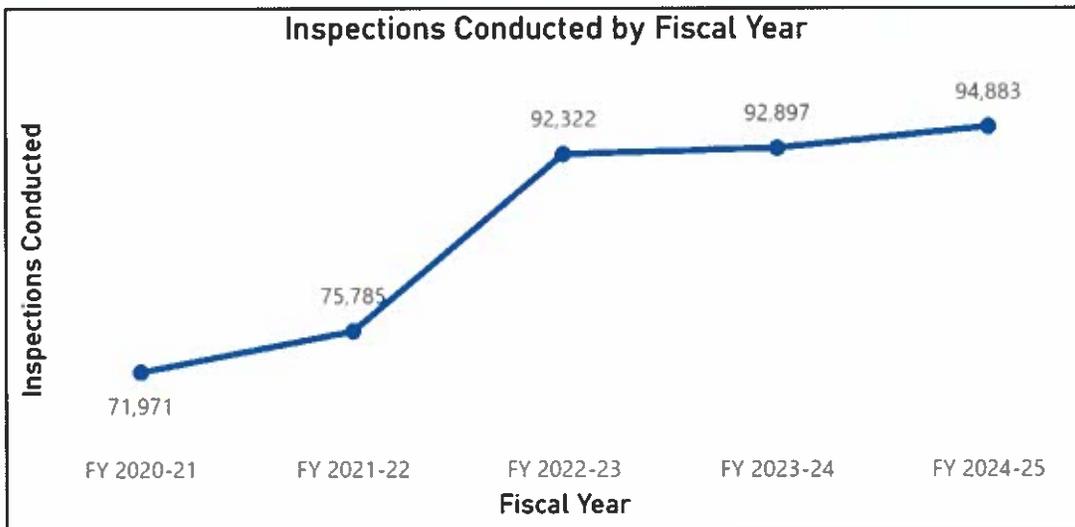
APPENDIX C – DEHQ’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Highlights (Charts and Graphs)

DEHQ enhances San Diegan’s quality of life by protecting public health and the environment, promoting environmental awareness, and ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws. The following charts and data provide a snapshot of a few of the performance metrics that DEHQ uses to verify that the department mission and program goals are met.

Inspections

DEHQ program staff conduct inspections to verify compliance with environmental laws and regulations. This chart relays total inspections, across the department, over the past 5 fiscal years. These inspections were conducted in the following programs: food, hazardous materials, housing, radiological health, vector control, mobilehome parks, body art, massage, organized camps, small drinking water systems and onsite wastewater treatment systems.

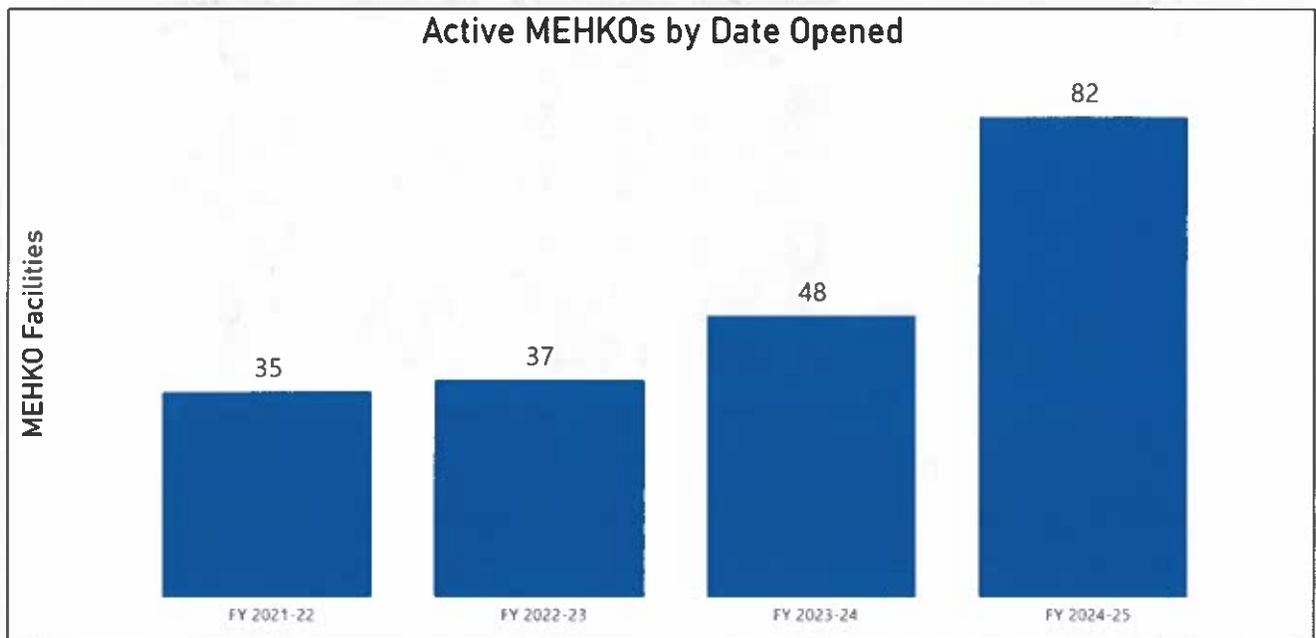
The following chart shows number of inspections across DEHQ programs. In the chart below, “CHD” is the Community Health Division, “FWHD” is the Food, Water, and Housing Division, “HMD” is the Hazardous Materials Division. “DEPT” represents inspections that resulted from customer complaints.



Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)

Prior to 2012, under the California Retail Food Code (CRFC), food sold to consumers was required to be made at an inspected commercial kitchen. When the California Homemade Food Act, known as “cottage food operations”, was enacted in 2013, certain low-risk food products that do not require refrigeration, such as bread, pie, fruit jam, and dried food, could be made in private home kitchens, and sold to consumers under limited conditions. On September 18, 2018, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626), *California Retail Food Code: Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations*. This bill established a “microenterprise home kitchen operation” (MEHKO) as a new category of retail food facility and required a program to be approved by local jurisdictions prior to MEHKOs being able to operate or be permitted. On November 8 and December 6, 2023, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors took action to adopt a permanent MEHKO program throughout the county of San Diego.

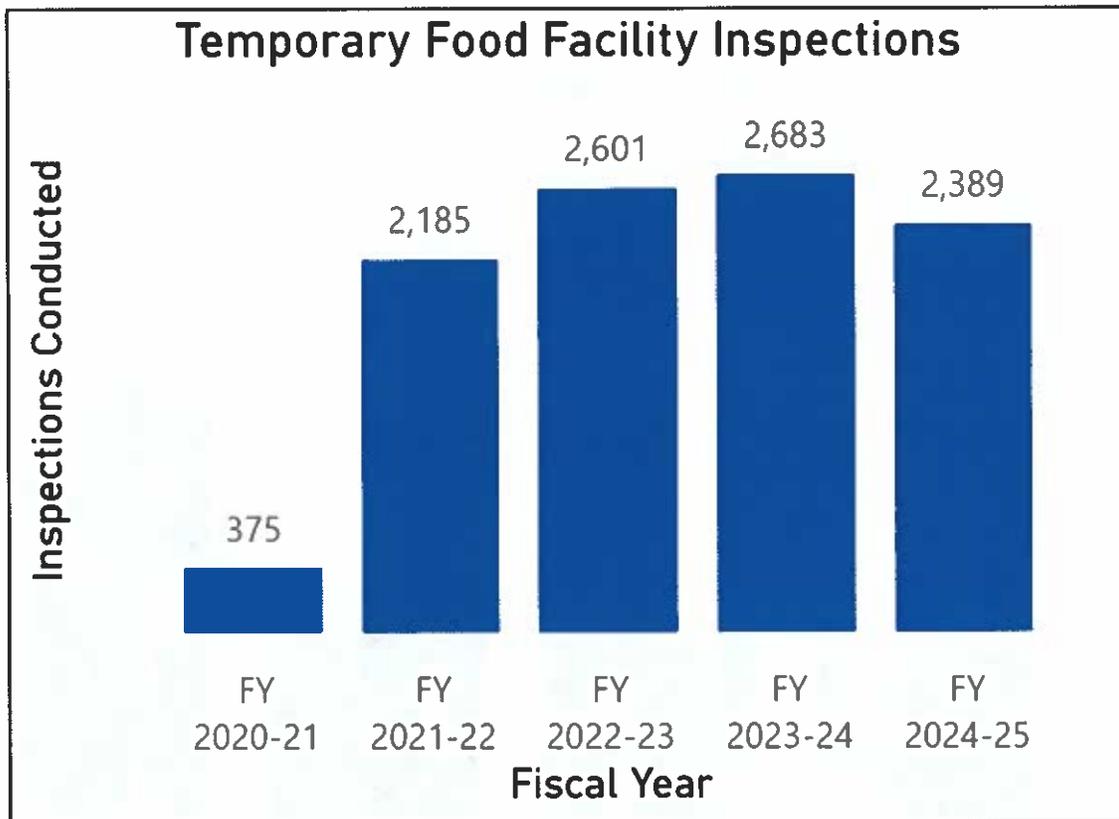
DEHQ has seen steady growth in the MEHKO program over the past few years. A contributing factor to program growth in 2025 was a state grant DEHQ received that funded MEHKO permit fee waivers. DEHQ received many applications when the grant funding was available. Though grant funds are now depleted, the department continues to attract new permittees which may be attributed to increased promotion such as social media posts and a multi-lingual educational video.



Temporary Food Facility Inspections

DEHQ's Food Program oversees Temporary Food Facility (TFF) permit program, in compliance with the California Retail Food Code Section 114387. [TFF](#) permits are required whenever food or beverages are sold or given away to the public. Examples of where food or beverages can be sold at a temporary food event include farmers markets, street fairs, festivals, musical and artistic presentations, sporting events, ethnic celebrations, and trade shows.

A variety of factors contribute to fluctuations in permit applications and inspections, for example, numbers were lower in FYs 2020-21 and 2021-22 because of the COVID-19 global pandemic.



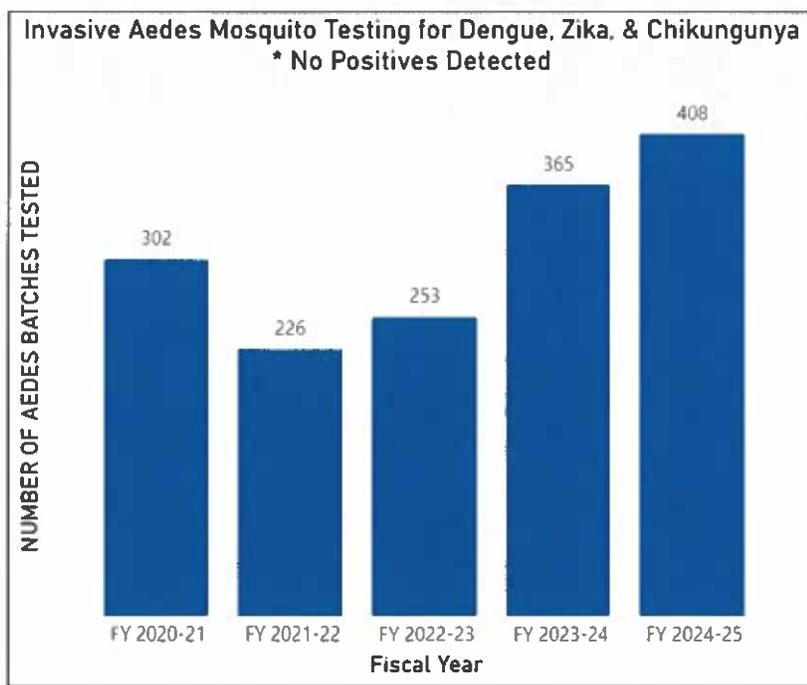
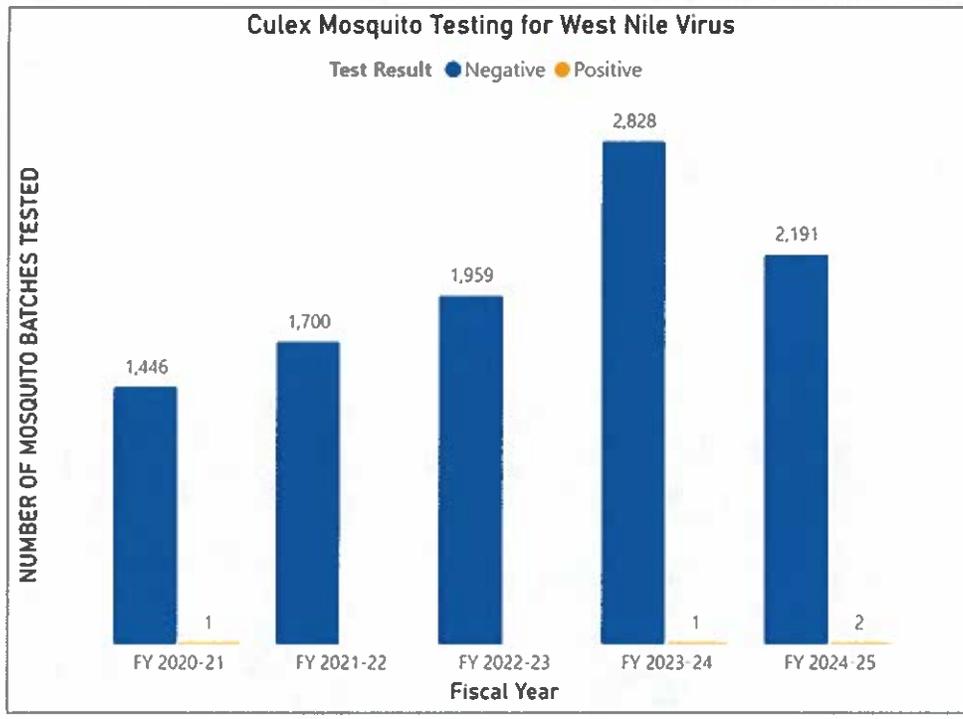
Vector Control Program

DEHQ's Vector Control Program (VCP) protects residents and visitors from health risks associated with vectors such as mosquitoes, rodents, and ticks, that can transmit vector-borne diseases.

Over the past 5 years, DEHQ has increased efforts to monitor and test mosquitoes for mosquito borne diseases in order to protect public health.

For example, invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, first detected in San Diego County in 2014, have since spread widely by breeding in small amounts of standing water around homes and urban areas and thriving close to people. Their daytime biting behavior and ability to transmit diseases such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya have necessitated increased surveillance, prevention, education, and control efforts throughout the year. In addition, VCP works closely with resource agencies and other stakeholders to reduce other mosquito breeding at sites throughout the county while protecting the natural environment of lagoons, marshes, and other sensitive wildlife areas.

Both native *Culex* mosquitoes, which can transmit West Nile virus, as well as invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, are batched and tested for diseases in Vector Control's laboratory (see graphs below). Each batch contains up to 50 mosquitoes, and when positive batches are detected, integrated vector management strategies that include public notification and education, source reduction, and treatment, are used in a judicious, data-driven manner to reduce the risk of disease transmission to San Diego County communities.



Beach and Bay Program

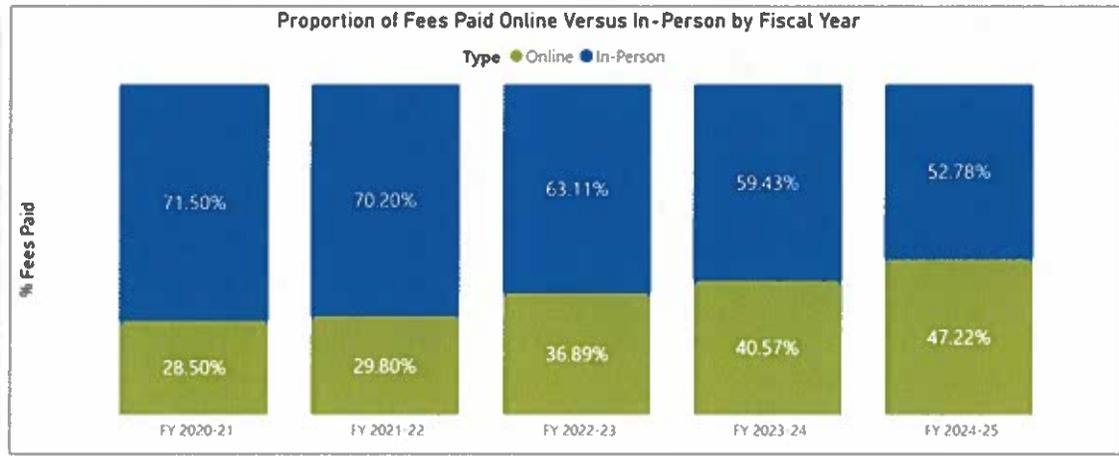
DEHQ’s Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program protects the public health of millions of residents and visitors each year through beach water testing, public education, outreach, and beach postings such as [advisories](#), [warnings](#), and [closures](#) when there is contamination. The program coordinates the sampling and [posting of signs](#) warning of contaminated water at beaches affected by sewage spills, when monitoring indicates bacteria levels exceed State standards, or during other events that may pose a threat to public health.

DEHQ monitors 114 sites across the 70 miles of coastline in the county. This fiscal year, DEHQ collected 7,278 beach water samples, which the Public Health Lab analyzed for compliance with state health standards for fecal indicator bacteria. Fecal indicator bacteria are commonly found in human or animal feces and are indicators for other pathogens that could make you sick and may be present in the water. The table below shows the number of samples analyzed over the last five fiscal years.

Samples Analyzed					
Month	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
July	544	529	563	639	705
August	535	701	540	680	678
September	524	688	491	657	629
October	491	539	548	695	690
November	493	536	484	526	540
December	521	412	475	496	577
January	404	447	411	504	540
February	473	356	414	356	470
March	468	375	333	388	445
April	661	423	637	649	672
May	683	558	693	666	660
June	708	547	644	615	672
Total	6,505	6,111	6,233	6,871	7,278

Online Efficiencies

DEHQ continues to streamline operations, automating processes wherever possible, to provide more accessible and timely online customer support. This chart shows changes in customer behavior over time, with an increasing number of transactions taking place online versus in person. Offering more services online enhances service to customers, saves travel time and reduces vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gases.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Established 1989

APPOINTMENT DATES & CURRENT TERM EXPIRATION DATES

Seat 1	Vizzier, Joseph Michael	Appointment	4/30/2024
District 1 appointed		Expiration	4/30/2027
Hazardous Material Regulatory Industry			
Seat 2	vacant		
District 2 appointed			
Restaurant Industry			
Seat 3	Hanna, Cliff	Appointment	8/27/2024
District 3 appointed		Expiration	8/27/2027
Occupational and Radiological Health			
Seat 4	Austin, Quinnton	Appointment	7/16/2024
District 4 appointed		Expiration	7/16/2027
Retail Food			
Seat 5	vacant	Appointment	
District 5 appointed		Expiration	
Land Use/Housing Industry			
Seat 6	vacant	Appointment	
District 3 appointed		Expiration	
Public Member			
Seat 7	Roy, Toby	Appointment	1/9/2024
District 5 appointed		Expiration	1/9/2027
Public Member			
Seat 8	Wilson, Jared	Appointment	4/8/2025
District 2 appointed		Expiration	4/8/2028
Public Safety			
Seat 9	Conner, Jesse	Appointment	6/29/2024
District 4 appointed		Expiration	6/29/2027
Public Safety			
Seat 10	vacant	Initial	
District 1 appointed		Expiration	
Community Environmental Organization			
Seat 11	Snyder, Scott	Appointment	8/27/2024
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	8/27/2027
Water Quality/Liquid Waste Disposal			
Seat 12	vacant	Appointment	
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	
Toxicologist			
Seat 13	Watson, LaRosa	Appointment	1/9/2024
DEHQ appointed			1/9/2027
Epidemiologist			

Seat 14	vacant	Appointment	
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	
Land Use/Housing Industry			
Seat 15	vacant	Appointment	
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	
Vector-borne Disease Expert			
Seat 16	Walsh, Laurie	Appointment	5/6/2025
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	5/6/2028
State Agencies			
Seat 17	Chowdhury, Zohir	Appointment	1/9/2024
DEHQ appointed		Expiration	1/9/2027
Academia			

