

ANNEX H

Environmental Health Operations



Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan SEPTEMBER 2026

Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annex describes the role of the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ). DEHQ has several roles and responsibilities, including:

- Health inspection of shelters
- Hazardous materials response
- Inspection of filtration plants and determining if water is potable
- Establishing methods and procedures for dealing with vector and rodent control
- Health inspections of food delivery systems

GENERAL

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Health Operations Annex to the San Diego County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OA EOP) describes the basic concepts, policies, and procedures for providing environmental health services in the event of a disaster. This annex serves as the unifying environmental health document for the County of San Diego and the Cities in the Operational Area (OA) as authorized by the [Emergency Services Agreement](#).

Note: This annex is not applicable for incidents at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). For all events at SONGS, refer to the San Diego County Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Plan.

PURPOSE

To establish emergency environmental health operations, assign responsibilities, and provide actions and responses to environmental health problems associated with disasters.

SCOPE

The Environmental Health Operations Annex provides for a coordinated Environmental Health response to actual or potential public and environmental health problems associated with disasters. Response to these issues is generally carried out in accordance with the National Response Framework (NRF).

The scope of the Environmental Health Operations Annex includes the appropriate actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a risk to public health, welfare, or the environment caused by actual or potential natural disasters and/or acts of terrorism. Appropriate general actions can include, but are not limited to: actions to prevent, minimize, or mitigate a hazardous materials release; efforts to ensure food, public pool, and housing safety to the community; develop methods and procedures to prevent vector-borne disease transmission; and to determine actions to contain and prevent contamination of surface water and groundwater from sewage or wastewater releases. Examples of specific actions may include: sampling a drinking water supply to determine if there has been contamination or if it is potable; accessing incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) hazards, stabilizing a CBRNE incident/release through the use of active

mitigation using berms, or impoundments; inspection of mass feeding stations and temporary shelters; decontaminating public areas, buildings and structures as needed; using drainage controls, fences, warning signs, or other security or site-control precautions; oversee the cleanup and removal of CBRNE materials and other actions as deemed necessary.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of environmental health operations during a disaster is to minimize loss of life and human suffering, prevent disease, and promote optimum health by monitoring and mitigating environmental factors.

The overall objectives of environmental health operations during a disaster are to:

- Provide leadership and guidance in all environmental health-related incidents.
- Provide environmental health protection measures.
- Provide guidance in food handling, mass feeding, and sanitation in emergency facilities.
- Inspect and advise on general sanitation matters.
- Coordinate environmental health-related activities among other local public and private response agencies and groups.
- Assist with damage assessments/health and safety assessments.

Whole Community Approach

The San Diego Operational Area is committed to achieving and fostering an emergency management system that uses a Whole Community Approach and is fully inclusive of individual needs and circumstances. For further details on the Whole Community Approach to emergency management and the integration of inclusive emergency management practices, refer to the Basic Plan.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The County of San Diego is structured into four separate organizational groups. The Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG) and HHSA are responsible for health/medical and environmental mitigation of impacts or potential impacts resulting from an environmental emergency or disaster. The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) works with other departments and agencies when there is potential or actual effect to the public health of the general population as related to water, food, air, soil, vector-borne diseases, or other environmental factors.

To effectively respond to disasters within the OA, DEHQ has instituted a Departmental Operations Center (DOC) to manage all DEHQ operations for the OA. The DEHQ-DOC Manager will oversee the emergency management operation within the DEHQ-DOC. Each section of the DEHQ-DOC will be led by a Section Chief responsible for managing their section in order to accomplish the emergency management objectives established by the Management Section. Once activated, the DEHQ-DOC will coordinate the support of the field level response through effective coordination and communication of all the DEHQ divisions involved in the incident response.

Field teams will respond under the established Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) structure of the DEHQ-

DOC. The DEHQ-DOC is also NIMS and SEMS compliant and all personnel staffing positions within the DEHQ-DOC have been trained in NIMS and SEMS.

CITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS (EOC)

Individual city plans may call for an environmental health liaison representative to be present when their EOC is activated.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

DEHQ DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS CENTER (DOC)

The DEHQ-DOC supports the OA EOC. The DEHQ-DOC is staffed based on the level of emergency. Details of the DEHQ-DOC response and operations are specified in the DEHQ Disaster Preparedness Plan (DPP). The DOC operations follow established standards in the Incident Command System (ICS), State Emergency Management System (SEMS), and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Staff at the DEHQ-DOC have the following roles:

- DOC Manager
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Safety Officer
- Operations Section Chief
- Planning Section Chief
- Situation Status
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Information Technology (IT)
- Logistics & Finance Section Chief

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Director, Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ)

Responsible for providing and coordinating the provision of countywide environmental health services, the Director of DEHQ, identifies environmental health problems, and coordinates activities with other county agencies, local public and private response agencies or groups, as well as state and federal agencies to resolve the problems. The Director of Environmental Health and Deputy Director may fill in for the Director if unavailable. The orders of succession are listed in the DEHQ Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

All Divisions

- Writes and updates the Environmental Health Annex H and any other emergency environmental health plans and procedures.
- Requests and responds to requests from the Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator/Specialist (RDMHC/S) and the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) DOC for disaster assistance.

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- Prepare Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and functional checklists for environmental health response to a disaster, including a system for automatic reporting of pre-designated personnel to assigned disaster posts. This information is maintained in the DEHQ Disaster Preparedness Plan (DPP).

Community Health Division (CHD)

VECTOR CONTROL

Vectors are animals or insects capable of transmitting the causative agents of human diseases. Vectors are present in virtually every environment and, at times, are involved in the transmission of serious diseases. Vector Control Program functions during disasters may include:

- Early detection of vector-borne public health threats through comprehensive vector surveillance, diagnostic testing, communication, and collaboration with public health agencies
- Control and reduction of mosquitoes that transmit diseases to humans by implementing integrated vector management strategies to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.
- Disseminating vector and vector-borne disease information to provide residents and property owners with tools for prevention, protection, and reporting of vectors that transmit diseases.
- Appropriate and timely response to vector-related customer complaints and to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases to residents.
- Monitor status of emerging and reemerging vector borne diseases at local, state, federal, and international levels.
- Coordinate responses with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies (County Public Health, California Department Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Assist with epidemiologic investigation of vector borne disease outbreaks in people.
- Conduct control activities in response to elevated risks to public health from vector-borne diseases.
- Communicate diagnostic test results to DEHQ management and public health staff.
- Develop disease prevention recommendations and strategies as they pertain to vectors and animal disease reservoirs. Distribute recommendations to the public utilizing accessible messaging.
- Assist with the coordination of the safe disposal of contagious animals and vectors.
- Train staff in biology, risks, and personal protection from new and emerging vector-borne pathogens.

RADIATION SAFETY

During an emergency/disaster involving a radiological (nuclear) incident, the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) and the CHD Senior Health Physicist will coordinate with the DEHQ Director and County Public Health Officer (PHO). These emergencies may involve transportation accidents, industrial/medical facility accidents, or Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) facilities/vessels. The following are examples of how the Senior Radiological Health Physicist coordinates actions with the California Radiologic Health Branch (RHB).

- Monitor radiological exposure and environmental contamination.
- Coordinate with other local, state, and federal monitoring teams.
- Advise on decontamination of exposed persons, personnel, and property. Decontamination procedures for animals, including service animals, are outlined in Annex O – Animal Services.
- Advise on other radioactive preventative measures.
- Advise on radioactive contamination of the environment and the population.
- Advise on control measures and recovery efforts from radiological incidents.
- Advise the DEHQ Director of the need for radiation preventative measures for emergency workers. The Director relays those recommendations to the County PHO.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The Occupational Health Program (OHP) of DEHQ is often called upon to assist all other county departments in the event of a disaster that can affect their staff health and safety.

- Assist the Department of General Services (DGS) in the evaluation of County facilities for safe occupancy following a disaster.
- Provide recommendations to County employees regarding personal protective equipment.
- Assist DGS with indoor air quality issues in County buildings during/following a disaster.
- Conduct air monitoring (for asbestos, lead, mold, smoke/dust, etc.) as needed.
- Provide health and safety training to County employees as needed post-disaster.
- Assist departments with employee protection issues for pandemics and other biological hazards.



Decorative Image

Food, Water, Housing Division (FWHD)

Mass feeding centers and/or shelters may be at maximum capacity because of damage to restaurants, grocery stores, and residences. Some food facilities may attempt to continue to operate following an emergency. Maintaining food safety at these facilities will be a high priority. Several aspects of food safety will require monitoring to prevent foodborne illnesses. These functions may include:

- Inspect and advise on general food safety for impacted permitted food facilities, mass feeding centers, and temporary shelters.
- Guidance and oversight include assessment of damaged or spoiled food and verification of approved sources of food.
- Survey of the food delivery system to prevent food contamination or spoilage.
- Conduct inspections as necessary to ensure food is prepared and served in a manner that minimizes the risks of foodborne illnesses.

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- Advise permitted and unpermitted food facilities on required food safety modifications needed due to the emergency conditions.
 - Conduct food-borne and water-borne illness outbreak investigations in coordination with the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).
 - Assist with conducting assessments of shelters and advise on health and safety hazards related to food, sanitation, and housing.
 - Assist building departments with the damage assessments / health and safety assessment of permitted multi-family dwelling units in areas where DEHQ is the housing authority.
 - Conduct damage assessments / health and safety assessments to identify impacted public swimming pools that may pose an imminent health or safety threat.
 - Provide guidance to permitted food facilities, mass feeding centers, and shelters that may be impacted by boil water orders, power outages, and water outages.

In the unincorporated area and contracted cities where DEHQ is the housing authority, FWHD conducts assessments of shelters and advises on health and safety hazards related to food, sanitation, and housing. This may also include assisting building departments with the damage assessments / health and safety assessment of permitted multi-family dwelling units in areas where DEHQ is the housing authority, conducting damage assessments / health and safety assessments to identify impacted public swimming pools that may pose an imminent health or safety threat.

FWHD also regulates state small water systems and wastewater issues, mobile home parks, substandard housing in unincorporated areas and contracted cities, construction of water wells, and onsite wastewater treatment systems. In the event of an emergency, staff will be able to expedite the review of emergency plans for the repair or reconstruction of private drinking water wells, state small water systems, and onsite wastewater treatment systems.

FWHD will assist other departments and divisions in the following ways:

- Expedite the review of plans for the repair of onsite wastewater treatment systems, and water and monitoring wells.
- Assist in the inspection of mobile home parks in unincorporated areas for safety and habitability.
- Assist with conducting environmental surveys of permitted and un-permitted establishments for releases of hazardous substances, septic wastes, and non-potable drinking water supplies.
- Assist in the inspection of tenant occupied structures to determine if substandard conditions exist in the unincorporated areas and contracted cities.

Hazardous Materials Division (HMD)

The HMD is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for San Diego County. The CUPA is the consolidation of six state-regulated environmental programs into one program under the California Environmental Protection Agency. The six programs are:

1. Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Program
2. California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program
3. Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program

4. Hazardous Materials Management and Inventory Program
5. Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Waste Treatment Program
6. Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

In addition, HMD staff act as the local enforcement agency for the [Medical Waste Management Act](#).

HMD also provides technical information concerning the characteristics of released or spilled substances from underground storage tanks and other facilities containing hazardous substances and evaluate remediation strategies and final site cleanup.

LONG TERM HAZARD MITIGATION

- Evaluate the risks posed to public health and water resources from hazardous substance releases.
- Advise on mitigation measures necessary to mitigate hazardous substance releases from abandoned or contaminated sites.
- Coordinate site assessment and mitigation activities with other public agencies and private entities.

A specialized team within the HMD is trained and equipped to respond to hazardous materials incidents associated with a CBRNE. Through an agreement between the Unified Disaster Council (UDC) members, the HMD and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department make up the Joint Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT). The HIRT was formed to provide a regional response program, serving the OA.

The HIRT has been rated as a Type 1 Hazmat Team by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). A Type 1 team is capable of responding to several types of incidents: known industrial chemicals, unknown industrial chemicals, weapons of mass destruction, and CBRNE substances.



Decorative Image

Photo by Walter Wallenborn

In the event of a hazmat incident, the HIRT will proceed to the incident site and coordinate with other on-site agencies under the operations section.

The HIRT will assist the designated Incident Commander as requested and will provide the following services as needed:

- Conduct environmental surveys to identify the hazardous materials and wastes released due to a disaster.
- Continuously monitor the status of the incident to determine the population at risk and the effect on environmentally sensitive areas.
- Conduct field sampling to determine the extent of contamination in soil, water, or air.
- When feasible, mitigate and stabilize a hazardous materials release to protect the health and safety of the population around the incident.

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- Provide analysis of unidentified hazardous materials that may adversely affect individuals, the public, or the environment, on an as needed basis.
 - Provide health and safety information to all response agencies and act as an on-site safety officer as necessary.
 - Make recommendations to the Incident Commander and other private or public response agencies regarding methods to be utilized in spill control, mitigation and site restoration.
 - Evaluate the mitigation, final site cleanup, and help coordinate the removal of the hazardous materials.
 - Provide technical information concerning the characteristics of released or spilled substances to medical and other response agencies.
 - Conduct damage assessments/health and safety assessments to identify any permitted facilities that may cause a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) release/hazard due to an emergency or natural disaster.
 - Advise on evacuation, isolation, shelter-in-place, and mitigation measures necessary to modify or reduce adverse conditions effecting public or environmental health.
 - Coordinate environmental health mitigation and response activities with other public and private response organizations.
 - Coordinate release reporting and securing funding from state and federal agencies for proper disposal of hazardous materials.
 - Provide assessment of underground storage tank systems to determine the integrity of the systems after a natural disaster.

NOTE: Responses to a significant oil spill impacting, or with the potential to impact, the OA are addressed in the [San Diego County Operational Area Oil Spill Contingency Element of the Area Hazardous Materials Plan](#).

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

During emergency conditions, most major water districts have emergency and mutual aid agreements to supply water to areas of most critical need. Where potable water sources may be limited, DEHQ functions to do the following in coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies, like State Water Resource Control Board, Division of Drinking Water:

- Provide proper health and disinfection information when alternate water resources are used, such as trucked-in water, use of agricultural wells, streams, pools, and ponds.
- Provide proper health and disinfection information in accessible formats for potable water sources at Field Treatment Sites, mass feeding and housing/ shelter areas.
- Assist the Public Health Laboratory by sampling water supplies to test for the presence of Coliform bacteria or other suspected contaminants.
- Issue boiled water orders as needed for compromised state small water systems.
- Confirm the sanitary transportation and treatment of water to be used as a potable water supply and verifies that the water is potable prior to consumption.

SEWAGE HAZARDS

Several aspects of human waste disposal management will need oversight to prevent the spread of disease. This oversight may include actions to:

- Determine the risks and hazards for the disposal of sewage where the public may come in contact or where it may contaminate drinking water supplies.
- Establish quarantine areas in the event of sewage contamination.
- Coordinate the provision of temporary measures for the collection of, and the sanitary disposal of, human waste.

Human waste generated from lack of sanitary facilities or from emergency toilet facilities may have to be disposed of at sanitary landfills or specially prepared and selected sites, including excavations or fill-and-cover sites if sewer treatment facilities are not in operation.

- Inspect pump trucks used to remove liquid wastes.
- Inspect sewage disposal units associated with community emergency shelters where the County is the housing authority.

SOLID WASTE

DEHQ-Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) regulates solid waste issues in the County (excluding the City of San Diego) before and after disasters that impact solid waste handling and disposal. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) can/has adopted regulations for the LEA to:

- Approve emergency waiver requirements of State standards and permit conditions for solid waste operators to accept disaster-related solid waste.
- Process and issue approvals for temporary Emergency Transfer/Processing Operations and Emergency Construction and Demolition/Inert Debris Processing Operations.
- Maximize the availability of handling, processing, transportation, storage, and disposal capacity through the period of increased need during emergencies.
- Provide trained staff to monitor any potential public health and safety issues related to the migration of landfill gas.
- Coordinate issues and environmental concerns related to solid waste and disposal sites with other regulatory agencies, the operator/owners, and the community. These issues may include odors, noise, dust, extended operating hours and changes in permitted tonnages at disposal sites and transfer stations, site security, vectors, and landfill gas.
- Inspect the disposal of special wastes, such as food waste generated from mass feeding centers and quarantines.
- Investigate and monitor solid waste issues in the general community related to commercial storage and illegal solid waste facilities and operations.
- Inspect for proper disposal of collected waste in an approved landfill or by burial, incineration, or open dump as a last resort.

Resources

DEHQ develops and maintains a capability for identifying specific resources that are helpful to DEHQ within the OA. Additionally, DEHQ, through the Logistics Section of the OA EOC, is responsible for the procurement, allocation, and distribution of environmental resources required to support environmental health operations.

The Environmental Health Disaster Preparedness Plan (EHDPP) includes information, SOPs and checklists to facilitate an environmental health disaster response. The following information is included in the plan:

- Notification and Recall Lists of Environmental Health Personnel.
- Environmental Health Emergency Telephone Numbers.
- Hazardous Material Haulers and other Emergency Transportation Resources.
- Septic Tank Pumpers.
- Emergency Chemical Toilet and Portable Restroom Suppliers (ADA compliant).
- Location of Emergency Water Supplies.
- National Guard Resources (Public Health specific).
- Water Purveyors.
- List of Analytical Laboratories.
- Pesticide Emergencies Reference List.
- Chemical and Biological Sampling equipment.
- Location of Field Monitoring Equipment.
- Hospitals with capability to handle ill or injured patients contaminated with radioactive material (coordinated with the Health and Human Services Agency of the County of San Diego).
- Miscellaneous Support Agencies.

NOTE: The EHDPP is maintained by the Department's Disaster Coordinator with the assistance of the Division Chiefs.

DIRECTION, CONTROL, OR COORDINATION

PLAN ACTIVATION AND TERMINATION

This annex is automatically activated when the OA EOC is activated. Upon activation, the DEHQ Director/Director of Environmental Health/Deputy Director determines the extent of environmental health services needed for response to the disaster and activates the DEHQ-DOC. The DEHQ-DOC will coordinate all environmental activities for the DEHQ and relay the activities to the OA EOC Environmental Health Duty Desk. Additionally, once activated, the Director/Director of Environmental Health/Deputy Director of DEHQ will ensure the annex is implemented and executed according to the policies, priorities, and direction established by the Management Section of the DEHQ-DOC. This annex can be terminated when the OA EOC is deactivated but will depend on the extent of the disaster recovery needed. Portions of this annex may continue until the disaster recovery is complete.

INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

To establish a common operating picture, the OA EOC requires information to be shared by all agencies involved in the incident response, whether in the field or staffing the OA EOC. Establishing a common operating picture and maintaining situational awareness are essential to effective incident management. For Environmental Health issues, information will be

provided to the DEHQ-DOC via the Environmental Health and Quality Duty Desk at the OA EOC.

Information such as type of incident/disaster, population/communities affected, resources available, and any other relevant incident information is needed by the DEHQ-DOC so that all incident response personnel maintain situational awareness.

The OA EOC Operational Period briefings are conducted at the beginning of each operational period. Additional briefings are scheduled as necessary to pass along vital information to those persons who need it. Any information or incident updates from the DEHQ-DOC that needs to be passed along during a briefing will be provided to the



Environmental Health and Quality Duty Desk in the OA EOC who will then disseminate that information to the Joint Information Center (JIC) as needed.

OA EOC JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC)

The DEHQ-DOC will provide the JIC with information regarding Environmental Health issues and recovery response. The JIC in-turn will craft a message. Once approved by the OA EOC Director, it will be disseminated to the public in the form of a press release, interview, or other approved method.

The DEHQ-DOC will ensure that current and accurate information is posted on the DEHQ website and/or other social media outlets for use by the public to assist them in disaster recovery.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication is a critical part of incident management. This section outlines the DEHQ communications plan to provide clear, effective internal and external communication between the OA EOC, incident response personnel, and the public. For additional information on emergency information dissemination, see [Annex L – Emergency Public Information](#).

NOTIFICATION AND WARNING

Timely warnings of emergency condition(s) are essential to preserving the safety of county residents as well as establishing an effective incident response. Upon learning of an incident, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for disseminating public information in coordination with the County Public Information Team; and notifying County personnel of an OA EOC activation.

Upon notification of an OA EOC activation, DEHQ personnel will use the county's mass notification system to activate the DEHQ-DOC staff.

EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION

The County Public Information Team and Public Information Officer (PIO) will report to the OA EOC and are responsible for the public communications efforts relative to the emergency. All emergency communications from the DEHQ will be forwarded from the DEHQ-DOC to the OA EOC JIC for dissemination.

NON-EMERGENCY EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

During an incident, the DEHQ-DOC expects a high volume of calls from the public seeking Environmental Health incident information. Information will be distributed through Environmental Health Duty Desks. The DEHQ-DOC will ensure that information posted on the DEHQ website is current and will provide the information related to emergency environmental health issues.

LOGISTICS

RESOURCE REQUESTS

Resource requests are submitted according to the NIMS ICS structure established within the OA. Resource request will be addressed locally, regionally, and statewide if necessary. Resource requests will be channeled to the DEHQ-DOC via the Environmental Health Duty Desk at the OA EOC.

LOGISTICS

DEHQ has limited needs for logistics in an activation of this annex. DEHQ will make logistics requests via the DEHQ-DOC Logistics and Finance Chief. If logistical resources are not readily available, the DOC Logistics and Finance Chief will reach out to the OA EOC Logistic Chief for assistance.

ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This annex is a product of the OA EOP. As such, the policies, procedures, and practices outlined in the OA EOP govern this annex. OES is subject to coordinate the maintenance and update of this annex every four years, in accordance with the maintenance schedule established for the OA EOP. Record of changes, approval, and dissemination of the OA EOP will also apply to this annex.

Updates to the appendices in this annex can be made before such time for multiple reasons, including but not limited to changes in policy/procedure, improvements and recommendations based on real life events or exercises, etc. Recommended changes should be submitted to OES at oes@sdcounty.ca.gov

AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

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.

Environmental Health Laws and Regulations that DEHQ enforces can be found in, but not limited to, the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations. Specific references can be found in the DEHQ COOP.

ATTACHMENT 1: STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The following state agencies have varied capabilities and responsibilities for providing support to environmental health disaster operations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS) OR CA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH)

DHS is primarily responsible, under the State Director of Public Health, for the administration and coordination of a statewide disaster environmental health program. This includes coordinating, supervising, and assisting those essential services required to do the following.

- Assure availability of safe drinking water.
- Prevent and control communicable disease.
- Provide technical assistance in the safe operation of sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems.
- Assure prevention and control of vectors, including flies, mosquitoes, and rodents.
- Assure observance of health aspects in management of solid waste disposal, including proper disposal of dead animals and human remains.
- Assure safe management of hazardous wastes, including handling, transportation, and disposal.
- Ensure safety of emergency supplies of food and other products.
- Ensure rapid restoration or replacement of facilities for processing, storing, and distributing food, and other products.
- Rapidly establish measures to mitigate damage to environmental health from radiological accidents, including providing technical assistance, safety criteria for recovery, re-occupancy, and rehabilitation of contaminated areas.
- Provide support to the California Air Resources Board in carrying out the public health aspects of the California Air Pollution Emergency Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Administers programs for the control and eradication of diseases, pests or chemicals affecting animals, poultry, or crops.
- Provides information on the protection of human and animal food from contamination by harmful residues or chemicals.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – AIR RESOURCES BOARD

- Develops plans to prevent substantial endangerment to the health of persons by anticipating and preventing or abating air pollution emergencies.
- Coordinates the execution of air pollution emergency plans with OA EOC and Regional Air Pollution Control Districts, State OES, and other public agencies.
- Coordinates the monitoring of air quality and issues bulletins consistent with public safety as required by DHS.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

- Ensures safe operation of sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems.

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- Provides water quality advice and support in emergency operations.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY
(CALRECYCLE) [FORMERLY KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE
MANAGEMENT BOARD]**

- Ensures proper disposal of solid wastes.
- Adopted regulations for LEA's to provide maximum availability for the proper disposal of solid waste during emergencies.

ATTACHMENT 2: FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Health and Human Services, operating under its own statutory authority or following a Presidential Declaration of an Emergency, may provide disaster environmental health services.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Service has the primary federal responsibility for activities associated with health hazards resulting from emergencies and will:

- Assist state and local communities in taking protective and remedial measures for ensuring sanitary food and potable water supplies; adequate sanitary systems; rodent, insect, and pest control; care of sick and injured; and control of communicable disease.
- Assign professional and technical personnel to augment state and local forces.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Drug Administration works with state and local governments in establishing public health controls through the decontamination, recall, or condemnation of contaminated food and drugs.

Policies and Procedures

If local resources (both public and private) are inadequate to cope with the situation(s), required support will be requested through the OA EOC to the appropriate California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Mutual Aid Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC). If the requirement cannot be met through resources available within the counties in the Region, the REOC staff or Director will request assistance from the State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento who will then forward the request to CDPH for assistance.

The provision of Federal resources prior to a Presidential emergency declaration, under the authorization of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. §5191-5193 (The Stafford Act), is justified where prompt action is essential for the protection of life and property. After a Presidential declaration is made, and upon instructions from the Director, Region IX, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal agencies will make their resources available to support local and state emergency public health and sanitation efforts.