

**Environmental Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: September 26, 2024**

DATE: September 17, 2024

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Robert Fyda, Director
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SUBJECT: **Environmental Health Services Program Activities for: Consumer Protection** (Food Safety Plan Review & Operations, Commercial Plan Review, Foodborne Illness, Special Events, Permitted Facilities); **Environmental Protection** (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-borne Disease Surveillance, Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks).

Environmental Health Program Activities:

Consumer Protection Programs

Food Safety Plan Review & Operations

Special Processes & Program Standards Team

- The Special Processes & Program Standards Team hosted two successful Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program courses, including an updated exercise to help food establishment operators identify the root causes of food safety violations in their establishments. The exercise includes a cause-and-effect diagram (also known as a fishbone diagram) and was informed by the recent quality improvement in public health training.

Food Safety Plan Review

- The Depot Craft Brewery & Distillery has been operating the space without NNPH Health Permits since 2019. This issue was discovered in March 2023 when the facility applied for a Business License Amendment to add this event space to their existing business license. A review of the Depot found that initial building plans were never routed to NNPH for review.
 - Subsequently, the space was inspected, and a list of corrections was provided to the operator.
 - The facility has since submitted building plans to the City of Reno, which are currently being reviewed.
 - The plan reviewer communicates openly with the operator and architect regarding the food facility's requirements and how to obtain NNPH Health Permits.
- Staff recently completed the Bully's change of ownership inspections for the 10 locations here in Washoe County. Bully's Sports Bar was required to make the following major updates to its food establishments: a backflow prevention device installed, a hand sink installed on the cook line, and a 3-compartment sink installed. Other items and small corrections were completed, and health permits have been issued, and the business licenses were approved for the new owner.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16.C.

Temp Foods / Special Events

- The Special Events team worked Hot August Nights, NNPH’s biggest multi-venue event of the year. Staff oversaw over five large event venues, including Downtown Reno, Downtown Sparks, Grand Sierra Resort, Peppermill, Atlantis, and some smaller locations. Staff conducted over 125 inspections across all venues and attended multiple planning meetings leading up to the event. Tasks for this event included coordination to ensure each event venue received adequate staffing to conduct inspections of food and infrastructure as needed and follow up on any issues observed during the events.
- Other events in August included the Reno Garlic Festival, Tacos and Tequila Festival, Dancing on the River, High Rock Pizza in Gerlach, the Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival, Food Truck Friday, and the start of the Nugget Best in the West Rib Cook-Off, which will be covered in more detail in next month’s report.

Foodborne Disease Program

Epidemiology	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Foodborne Disease Complaints	7	9	7	14	16	25	12	10	100	107	51	98
Foodborne Disease Interviews	4	7	12	6	12	22	6	4	73	102	47	59
Foodborne Disease Investigations	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	6	7	4	12
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	2	8	2	2	2	5	15	38	45	81	178
Product Recalls Reviewed	29	35	14	19	17	26	18	18	176	268	250	251

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- The Commercial plans team continues to work on measures to ensure consistency with review.
 - Staff averaged 9 business days for all reviews that were submitted and completed in August 2024 with 71% completed within the regional plan review goal.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Development Reviews		42	17	28	24	41	38	24	23	237	449	494	400
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		152	152	122	171	172	165	148	161	1,244	1,814	1,555	1,169
Total Reviews Conducted		189	205	162	237	224	233	220	252	1,727	2,270		
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		68%	89%	85%	66%	56%	63%	63%	85%	71%			
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	107	118	89	119	127	122	113	121	916	1,568		
	Food	40	35	32	55	45	41	34	38	320	400		
	Pool/Spa	2	5	6	14	7	12	4	14	64	84		
	Vector	31	43	30	38	33	51	63	68	360	278		
	Hotel/Motel	2	0	1	5	1	2	1	3	15	19		
	Environmental	4	3	1	1	9	3	5	5	31	78		
	UST / WM	3	1	3	5	3	3	1	3	22	7		

Permitted Facilities

- During a routine childcare inspection, staff found an unattended child. Staff notified the Person in Charge (PIC) of the issue, and they self-reported it to the state.
- A public swimming pool was constructed in Verdi without a way to backwash or drain the pool water. The pool and spa at this facility were provided with guidance on how to correct the issues observed. The issue has been corrected at this time, but operating permits are pending.

- The complaint system has identified a non-permitted IBD (tattoo) facility as operating. Staff made multiple attempts to reach the facility, but the operator has not contacted staff to initiate the permitting process. Failure by the operator to contact NNPH staff will result in a cease-and-desist in operations until the facility obtains its permits.
- A hotel was operating without power during the Gold Ranch fire in the Verdi area. The hotel was required to close and relocate all guests until the facility had full power and could ensure it could operate and meet the minimum requirements for safe occupancy.

Environmental Protection
Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews

- Plan intake and inspection counts for the Land Development team are tracking essentially in line with calendar year 2023.
- Team leadership began holding weekly team meetings to focus on some areas of program development, including updating standard operating procedures, standard comment development, finalization of a troubleshooting guide, and website review and enhancements.
- The team continued training Daniel and Melanie in septic and well plan review and construction inspections.

Land Development	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	76	80	78	84	83	81	80	81	643	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	114	87	95	105	93	86	84	76	740	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	13	11	10	10	13	15	4	4	80	90	141	150
Water Projects Received	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	7	12	25	40

Safe Drinking Water

- Four sanitary surveys were conducted during August.
- Staff was contacted by an inspector with the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance regarding their plans to conduct water sampling for PFAS compounds at private wells within a three-mile radius of the Nevada Air National Guard base. The sampling will occur in September, and NNPH staff will be invited to observe the event. Staff have been offering guidance to the EPA team with respect to neighborhoods to focus on for sampling and have offered to contact property owners who may be willing to allow the sampling of their wells.
- Staff continues to work with BSDW and Rosemount Water Company staff with respect to their monitoring and maximum contaminant level violations for uranium at the point-of-use units within the water system. NNPH requested the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) begin official enforcement and has provided all subsequent complaint and violation details to BSDW. The water system was given until August 9th to provide a corrective action plan for review. The water system submitted the corrective action plan, and NNPH and BSDW staff offered comments requesting clarification and revisions to the plan. BSDW staff is drafting an Administrative Order with Consent, and all outstanding items are expected to be included in this Order.
- Staff continue to contact all public water systems required to complete and submit a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) by October 16, 2024. Of the 33 systems that NNPH regulates, 26 have responded that they intend to complete the inventory on time or have obtained technical assistance. As of August 31, 2024, eight (8) water systems have completed and submitted their inventory for NNPH to review.

Vector-Borne Disease Program

- Staff conducted an aerial larvicide treatment on August 28, covering 403 acres in the Stead, Spanish Springs, Rosewood Lakes, and Damonte Ranch areas.
- *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected from the Damonte Ranch New Jersey trap on August 12th tested positive for West Nile virus.
- Four mosquito pools collected using CO2 traps on August 15th were suspected positive for WNV from the Wingfield Golf course and Rio Wrangler Parkway areas. Suspected positive pools show elevated virus detection but at levels below the reportable threshold.
- All areas with positive or suspected pools were trapped again on August 21st and will be trapped a third time following the Labor Day holiday.

Vector	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	1	0	0	7	16	9	4	6	43	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	21	75	101	162	359	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	14	21	40	58	133	242	791	821

Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- Staff completed 19 UST inspections for August. One site was unable to achieve passing test results for three year compliance testing and was emptied and put into a Temporary Closure Status. Another site which routinely had deficiencies was removed from the ground and decommissioned. Staff was onsite to witness closure and sampling.
- UST Staff has issued a permit to remove the UST system at the former West Hills Hospital.
- Staff contacted a UST owner in Washoe Valley and notified him of his system's severe non-compliance, which has been non-operational for over two years. The owner has no intent to operate the system and has been provided with guidance on removal and closure procedures.
- Staff is working with a new operator to change a permitted waste hauler's ownership and issue another permit for a biohazardous waste hauler. Both inspections are scheduled for September, and permits will be issued as long as applicants meet the permit requirements.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	14	11	11	11	2	5	5	8	67	133	128	118
Food/Exempt Food	323	330	306	386	380	307	341	245	2618	3,576	4,419	4,959
Schools/Institutions	14	29	34	14	44	14	0	5	154	300	292	291
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	10	15	10	13	3	2	3	14	70	110	130	134
Temporary IBD Events	2	0	0	0	74	69	0	0	145	36	5	0
Liquid Waste Trucks	6	27	28	4	5	24	5	7	106	113	111	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	4	0	21	14	0	1	5	45	108	121	117
Public Accommodations	14	12	17	3	1	1	0	8	56	68	139	151
Aquatic Facilities/Spas/Spas	53	45	44	88	255	149	91	36	761	739	712	1,128
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	21	19
Underground Storage Tanks	17	18	17	22	20	15	17	18	144	202	161	4
Waste Management	14	19	17	12	15	14	9	11	111	166	132	146
Temporary Foods/Special Events	24	15	12	55	92	321	147	221	887	1,358	1,174	766
Complaints	33	40	39	50	61	47	50	34	374	760	613	689
TOTAL	524	565	535	679	966	968	669	632	5,538	7,683	8,158	8,633
EHS Public Record Requests	330	234	518	284	354	212	249	370	2,551	4,962	5,707	4,769

Complaints:

Complaint Breakdown	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
EHS - Invasive Body Decoration	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
EHS - Food	18	23	26	30	23	19	19	13	171	248		
EHS - General	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4		
EHS - Hotels/Motels	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	3	11	20		
EHS - Liquid Waste	0	4	3	1	3	0	0	4	15	62		
EHS - Mobile Home/RV Park	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	9		
EHS - Pools/Spas	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	3	10	3		
EHS - Schools	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3		
EHS - Solid Waste	11	8	4	14	20	4	14	28	103	177		
EHS - Vector	1	0	1	1	9	19	13	3	47	98		
EHS - Waste Mgt	0	1	1	0	3	1	3	0	9	3		

New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	23	25	30	39	56	42	30	46	291	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	6	4	1	5	1	2	2	5	26	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	3	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	11	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/Pools/Spas	0	4	3	2	1	0	2	0	12	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	13	8	6
TOTAL	36	40	36	48	62	46	37	55	360	716	605	614

*This table identifies new business opening inspections but does not include re-inspections during the opening process.