

**Environmental Health Services  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: April 25, 2024**

**DATE:** April 18, 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, Permitted Facilities); **Environmental Protection** (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-borne Disease Surveillance, Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks).

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**Environmental Health Program Activities:**

**Consumer Protection Programs**

**Food Safety Plan Review & Operations**

*Food Safety Program*

- Field inspectors have tracked the success of the Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program since the program's debut in July 2023. Preliminary review of the reinspection data shows that food establishments that have a developed AMC Policy available on-site during the reinspection are more likely to earn a "Pass" score upon reinspection than those establishments who have not developed an AMC Policy.
- Starting on March 11th, Olivia Alexander-Leeder was promoted to the Senior EHS role in the Program Standards and Special Process Review Subprogram of the Food Safety Team which reviews all Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and operational plans; and tracks and advances the Food Safety Team's adherence to the FDA Retail Food Safety Program Standards. Olivia and her team develop and administer major educational / community outreach programs like the Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program, Excellence in Food Safety Award (EFSA) Program, and the pilot program for health score placarding in food establishments. Finally, Olivia and her team are transitioning to take over the Foodborne Disease and Environmental Assessment Program.
- The Food Safety Team welcomed a new EHS Trainee on March 25th, Hallie Plato. She will be joining the Program Standard and Special Process Review Subprogram.

*Food Safety Plan Review*

- Plans, construction inspections, & change of ownerships are remaining steady and busy for the team.
- The team is holding predevelopment meetings for potential food business owners to help them through the change of ownerships & building requirement process.
- Chloe Dodge has begun training in the Food plan review subprogram.

- Byron Collins completed training in March for the Virtual Retail Program Standards Self-Assessment and Verification Audit Workshop

*Temp Foods / Special Events*

- EHS is beginning to see an uptick in the number of special events and accompanying temporary food permits as we get closer the busy season. Staff conducted inspections at St. Patrick’s Day events, Easter events and at a circus event that was held at the Reno Livestock Events center.
- Special Events team had staffing changes and two existing EHS staff have joined the team. They had been working on different food safety teams.

Foodborne Disease Program

- Staff conducted an environmental assessment of a local food establishment in response to an out-of-state foodborne disease referral that reported dining in a local restaurant. The responding inspectors observed several critical violations that were corrected on-site during the assessment; however, observations recorded throughout the assessment did not warrant environmental sampling.

<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Foodborne Disease Complaints	7	9	7	23	107	51	98
Foodborne Disease Interviews	4	7	12	23	102	47	59
Foodborne Disease Investigations	1	1	1	3	7	4	12
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	2	8	12	45	81	178
Product Recalls Reviewed	29	35	14	78	268	250	251

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- Commercial plans are starting to decrease. As indicated in the data, we have less plans this past month than previous years; however, plans are stable when compared to the same quarter in previous years.
- The Commercial plans team continues to work on measures to ensure consistency with review.
  - Environmental Health averaged 8 business days for all reviews that were submitted and completed in March 2024
  - EHS is averaging 9 business days for all reviews completed that have been submitted for calendar year 2024.
  - 88% of reviews were completed within 2 weeks of submittal.
- Development reviews are decreasing and are currently 21% below year-over-year submittals compared to March 2023.

<b>Commercial Plans &amp; Development Reviews</b>		<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Development Reviews		42	17	27	59	449	494	400
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		152	152	122	304	1,814	1,555	1,169
Total Reviews Conducted		188	184	161	372	2,270		
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		76%	78%	88%	77%			
<b>Review Type Breakdown</b>	Engineering	107	111	89	218	1,568		
	Food	40	27	32	67	400		
	Pool/Spa	3	4	7	7	84		
	Vector	30	39	29	69	278		
	Hotel/Motel	2	0	1	2	19		
	Environmental	4	3	1	7	78		
	UST / WM	2	0	2	2	7		

Permitted Facilities

- Staff was notified of changes to childcare licensure that impacts NNPH and is bringing the topic for DBOH for discussion and possible direction.
- A joint inspection was conducted with the City of Reno at one of the motel facilities to observe inspections process and tools used in the field.

**Environmental Protection**

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews

- Well and septic construction inspections continued unabated during March, despite the inclement weather that occurred. New plans tracked March from 2023, though total plans (including revisions) were much higher, indicating that the team continues to struggle with inadequate plan submittal.
- Staff conducted one realtor outreach presentation to a Realty One office in the month of March.
- The team received a retirement notice from Teresa Long, who will be leaving NNPH on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The current recruitment for another EHS vacant position should be able to be used to fill her position based on the timing, so the vacancy should be filled on or near that date.

Safe Drinking Water

- Much of the team attended the Nevada Rural Water Conference during the first week of March. The conference included many educational topics specific to smaller water systems and allowed staff to interact with regulators as well as system operations.
- Rosemount Water System continues to receive violations, setting up a potential for formal enforcement from the State. The operator for Rosemount announced months ago their intent to leave the system and the PUC is negotiating a new owner but monitoring continues to be missed. NNPH staff, at the request of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), is issuing violations to ensure proper documentation in the event that BSDW moves forward with enforcement.
- Zero (0) sanitary surveys were conducted during the month of March. This was planned, as the team has still not chosen a replacement for Ellen Messinger-Patton and is also preparing for the departure of a Land Development team member. The larger team is waiting for new staff to come on board to determine the best fit. All surveys are still expected to be completed.

<b>Land Development</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	76	80	78	234	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	114	87	95	296	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	13	11	10	34	90	141	150
Water Projects Received	1	1	1	3	12	25	40

Vector-Borne Disease Program

- Staff will be coordinating the public notification for upcoming vector program activities with the first helicopter treatment projected to begin in mid-May for the region.
- Staff will be working on burrow dusting for ground squirrels in a couple of the regional parks that are known for high ground squirrel populations.

<b>Vector</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Service Requests	1	0	0	1	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	242	791	821

Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- The UST team inspected 17 sites for March and referred two sites to NDEP for formal enforcement action.
- NNPH staff has been working with: NDEP, the manufacturer, and a local certified tank tester to ensure new testing equipment designing for testing UST components is meeting manufacturer standards and all required documentation is submitted in compliance with UST regulations.
- The team welcomed a new staff member on March 11<sup>th</sup>, Josh Foster. Josh will be assigned under the WM/UST team but will also be cross training in Land Development.
- Staff conducted a joint inspection with NDEP, TMWA, and City of Reno Code Enforcement at a non-permitted and non-licensed chemical manufacturing facility at the beginning of the month. The business had been in operation since 2019. EHS staff brought the results of the initial investigation back to the applicable Washoe County agencies, Air Quality and Business License, to ensure that the company was meeting all required codes. Enforcement action was ultimately taken by agencies to bring the company into compliance.

**Inspections:**

<b>EHS Inspections</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Child Care	14	11	11	36	133	128	118
Food/Exempt Food	318	325	296	939	3576	4,419	4959
Schools/Institutions	14	29	34	77	300	292	291
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	10	7	7	24	110	130	134
Temporary IBD Events	2	0	0	2	36	5	0
Liquid Waste Trucks	6	19	3	28	113	111	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	4	0	4	108	121	117
Public Accommodations	14	12	17	43	68	139	151
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	50	40	40	130	739	712	1128
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	14	21	19
Underground Storage Tanks	17	17	17	51	202	161	4
Waste Management	14	15	13	42	166	132	146
Temporary Foods/Special Events	24	2	11	37	1358	1,174	766
Complaints	39	50	43	132	760	613	689
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>7,683</b>	<b>8,158</b>	<b>8,633</b>
EHS Public Record Requests	324	232	516	1,072	4,962	5,707	4,769

**Complaints:**

<b>Complaint Breakdown</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Food	22	27	29	78	336		
Permitted Facilities	2	2	2	6	41		
General	2	4	2	8	115		
Liquid Waste	1	4	5	10	67		
Solid Waste	12	13	5	30	201		

**New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:**

<b>New Openings*</b>	<b>JAN 2024</b>	<b>FEB 2024</b>	<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Child Care	1	1	1	3	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	23	24	28	75	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	0	1	1	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up	6	4	0	10	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	3	1	0	4	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	3	0	3	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	2	0	0	2	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/ Pools/Spas	0	3	1	4	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	1	0	2	13	8	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>614</b>

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