

**Environmental Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: October 24, 2024**

DATE: October 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:

Multiple EHS staff responded to the Davis Fire in various response capacities from September 7, 2024, to September 13, 2024. Activities included attending emergency operations and emergency shelter council meetings and staffing the regional emergency operations center to field activities. Inspections and site visits were conducted at multiple schools, childcares and food facilities. Assistance and activities were also completed related to public water systems and waste management activities.

Consumer Protection Programs

Food Safety Plan Review & Operations

Special Processes & Program Standards Team

- Senior EHS Olivia Alexander-Leeder traveled with Food Safety Team Supervisor, Amber English, to Saipan, MP in September for the mentorship site visit via the NACCHO-FDA Retail Food Safety Mentorship Program. At this site visit, NNPH representatives led two classes of the Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program course for local industry professionals and regulators. Additionally, the team worked closely with Saipan’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Program Manager, Aileen Benavente, and Director, John Tagabuel, to conduct a successful verification audit of the Retail Food Safety Program Standards Standard 7 for their organization. Standard 7 is the first standard met by their organization.
- Senior EHS Olivia Alexander-Leeder, Byron Collins, and Kristen DeBraga, traveled with Food Safety Team Supervisor, Amber English to attend the 2024 WAFDO/FDA Educational Conference. This conference is a valuable opportunity to learn about regulatory updates and current food safety science in the Western U.S.

Food Safety Plan Review

- Staff was following up on a complaint received stating there was a pest issue in a facility. Upon inspection, staff observed rodent feces throughout the facility, including on the top of the dishwasher, on canned dry goods, on the floors, in the bathroom, and in contact with food equipment and opened dry food items in one of the back storage rooms.
 - The restaurant permit was suspended until the operator was able to show documentation that they have been working with a licensed pest company. The pest company came in to evaluate and a treatment plan was put in place for the facility prior to a reinspection for opening.
 - Staff returned for an opening reinspection and the facility was observed as clean and no pest contamination was seen on any food or food contact surfaces.
 - The facility’s bar permit was suspended for a nonfunctioning dishwasher. The dishwasher was repaired, and the permit was reinstated during the reinspection. A person in charge in the facility is required to go to AMC for both the bar and restaurant.

Temp Foods / Special Events

- In September, EHS staff worked the largest event in Washoe County, The Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook Off. In total, staff spent over 250 hours on this event that included pre-event meetings with the Nugget and City of Sparks and inspections during the event. There were 80 temporary food permits at this year’s event, 24 of which were rib cookers which requires additional oversight inspections conducted at 5:30 AM and 9:30 PM every day ribs were cooking.
 - These additional inspections are necessary due to the complex cooking and cooling practices that are unique to the Rib Cook Off.
 - As these additional inspections are not covered under NNPH temporary food permit fees, the new “Special Event Permit to operate (5,000+ attendees) - Hourly Rate” fee that was approved by the DBOH fee was assessed in the amount of \$18,130.00 in order to recoup some EHS staff time spent on the additional activities/inspections in addition to those covered under or existing permit fees.
- September is a demanding month for large special events. In addition to The Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook Off, staff worked the Great Reno Balloon Races, Latin Fest held in Downtown Reno, Fiesta on Wells, and Street Vibrations in addition to other smaller events occurring on evenings and weekends.

Foodborne Disease Program

Epidemiology	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Foodborne Disease Complaints	7	9	7	14	16	25	12	10	7	107	107	51	98
Foodborne Disease Interviews	4	7	12	6	12	22	6	4	4	73	102	47	59
Foodborne Disease Investigations	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	7	4	12
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	2	8	2	2	2	5	15	4	42	45	81	178
Product Recalls Reviewed	29	35	14	19	17	26	18	18	11	187	268	250	251

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- Commercial Plan and Development Reviews have dropped off significantly and according to the development community should remain below the numbers seen earlier this year and last year through at least the middle of December 2024.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Development Reviews		42	17	28	24	41	38	24	23	22	259	449	494	400
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		152	152	122	171	172	165	148	161	125	1,369	1,814	1,555	1,169
Total Reviews Conducted		189	205	162	237	224	233	220	252	201	1929	2,270		
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		68%	89%	85%	66%	56%	63%	63%	85%	93%	71%			
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	107	118	89	119	127	122	113	121	95	1,011	1,568		
	Food	40	35	32	55	45	41	34	38	24	344	400		
	Pool/Spa	2	5	6	14	7	12	4	14	8	72	84		
	Vector	31	43	30	38	33	51	63	68	63	423	278		
	Hotel/Motel	2	0	1	5	1	2	1	3	3	18	19		
	Environmental	4	3	1	1	9	3	5	5	4	35	78		
	UST / WM	3	1	3	5	3	3	1	3	4	26	7		

Permitted Facilities

- NNPH previously received a complaint about an unpermitted tattoo shop – the operator worked with staff and are fully permitted and open for business.
- Staff closed an unpermitted mobile IBD trailer operating at Street Vibrations for operating without permits. The vendor was allowed to stay and advertise but no work was allowed during the event.
- Staff worked with the developer to partially open a new 132 room hotel in South Reno. Additional inspections are required to fully open all rooms and allow the hotel to operate at full occupancy.
- Staff completed the change of ownership for the Nugget Resort Hotel and issued the permit pending the payment of the \$18,324.25 inspection fee.

Environmental Protection

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews

- September was a slow month for inspections and plan intake but year over year the program is tracking very closely with 2023.
- The Land Development team conducted one realtor outreach presentation in September at the Courtney Group offices. The team is also starting to work on revised presentations for septic designers/installers to expand their ability to educate different groups of stakeholders.
- During the Davis Fire, the team put together some educational bullet points for homeowners that may have been impacted. The points were shared with the Communications team for outreach into the community.

Land Development	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	76	80	78	84	83	81	80	81	67	710	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	114	87	95	105	93	86	84	76	55	795	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	13	11	10	10	13	15	4	4	5	85	90	141	150
Water Projects Received	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	10	12	25	40

Safe Drinking Water

- One (1) sanitary survey and 6 water hauler inspections were completed in September. Eight (8) water systems remain to have a survey for 2024, as Davis Creek is inactive due to the Davis Fire. All surveys are expected to be completed for the year.
- In the month of September, the team issued Level 1 Assessments at two public water systems due to confirmed positive bacteriological sampling. Level 1 Assessments require the water system to self-evaluate the system for potential causes of contamination and report back to the team within 30 days.
- The program Senior attended an EPA training on PFAS testing. PFAS will become a regulated contaminant in upcoming years and staff is becoming familiar with it in advance of the regulations.
- The team was involved in the Davis Fire response in several ways; They helped coordinate water system requests with the EOC; several water systems lost power during the fire and were required to go on precautionary boil water orders; and, the team ensured that those rules were followed and coordinated with the Food Safety program on impacted food establishments. One public water system burned completely, and another was damaged to the point that it will not be in service for a long time. Staff communicated with the operators and inactivated the systems.

Vector-Borne Disease Program

- Staff have continued to conduct adult mosquito surveillance for WNV testing.
- Adult population surveillance using New Jersey traps concluded in September due to the continued decline in mosquito collections.
- Staff have been focusing mosquito abatement efforts on storm drain mosquitoes in urban areas.

Vector	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEPT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	1	0	0	7	16	9	4	6	4	47	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	21	75	101	162	44	403	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	14	21	40	58	18	151	242	791	821

Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- Staff received notice of intent to close a site that has been in a temporary closure status for numerous years and permanent closure is scheduled for October 2024.
- UST Staff received and reviewed a site assessment report that has been referred to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) because of high concentrations of fuel constituents encountered during closure activities per interagency policy. Based on the review of the assessment, UST staff will be deferring to NDEP for the final decision on whether additional assessment is needed.
- NNPH staff attended a Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) meeting in Carson City to provide direction and guidance to new NDOT staff on how to keep their tanks in compliance with testing and monitoring.
- WM team staff and REOC assisted local businesses and homeowners affected by the power outage and fire damage associated with the Davis Fire by coordinating extra containers and pickups to ensure proper waste disposal. Staff worked with WM to ensure containers in heavy wildlife areas were equipped with rolling lids and serviced daily to reduce animal interaction. Additionally, NNPH staff provided guidance to homeowners that may have waste issues due to the fire.

- WM team has received biohazardous waste generator permit applications for the last two known outstanding generators and will be issuing them in October 2024.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	14	11	11	11	2	5	5	8	12	79	133	128	118
Food/Exempt Food	323	330	306	386	380	307	341	245	356	2974	3,576	4,419	4,959
Schools/Institutions	14	29	34	14	44	14	0	5	9	163	300	292	291
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	10	15	10	13	3	2	3	14	14	84	110	130	134
Temporary IBD Events	2	0	0	0	74	69	0	0	2	147	36	5	0
Liquid Waste Trucks	6	27	28	4	5	24	5	7	4	110	113	111	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	4	0	21	14	0	1	5	18	63	108	121	117
Public Accommodations	14	12	17	3	1	1	0	8	2	58	68	139	151
Aquatic Facilities/Spas/Spas	53	45	44	88	255	149	91	36	22	783	739	712	1,128
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	21	19
Underground Storage Tanks	17	18	17	22	20	15	17	18	21	165	202	161	4
Waste Management	14	19	17	12	15	14	9	11	7	118	166	132	146
Temporary Foods/Special Events	24	15	12	55	92	321	147	221	92	979	1,358	1,174	766
Complaints	33	40	39	50	61	47	50	54	43	417	760	613	689
TOTAL	524	565	535	679	966	968	669	632	630	6,168	7,683	8,158	8,633
EHS Public Record Requests	330	234	518	284	354	212	249	370	298	2,883	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	SEP 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
EHS - Invasive Body Decoration	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1		
EHS - Food	18	23	26	30	23	19	19	13	27	198	248		
EHS - General	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4		
EHS - Hotels/Motels	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	3	0	11	20		
EHS - Liquid Waste	0	4	3	1	3	0	0	4	1	16	62		
EHS - Mobile Home/RV Park	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	9		
EHS - Pools/Spas	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	3	1	11	3		
EHS - Schools	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3		
EHS - Solid Waste	11	8	4	14	20	4	14	28	10	113	177		
EHS - Vector	1	0	1	1	9	19	13	3	2	49	98		
EHS - Waste Mgt	0	1	1	0	3	1	3	0	1	10	3		