

**Environmental Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: May 22, 2025**

DATE: May 14, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Robert Fyda, Director
775-328-2644; rfyda@nmph.org

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

- Staff hosted the Food Safety Inspection Bootcamp on April 28. The bootcamp was attended by 21 people from 13 different local food establishments. The Food Safety Inspection Bootcamp provides food establishment operators with the tools and resources to inspect their own establishments for food safety practices as though they were an NNPH food safety inspector.
- Staff hosted two Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program courses on April 7 and April 22. Combined, the April AMC Program courses were attended by 32 establishments.

Food Safety Plan Review

- The team will be finalizing the food construction guidelines packet and will be ready for the food permit fair on May 15.
- Staff will be meeting with representatives from Meadowood Mall to discuss a proposal to build out a room with a 3-comp sink, prep sink, & hand sink that could be used for mobile / portable unit support in the mall.
- Trainees will be attending the FDA 207 plans course this month.

Temp Foods / Special Events / Mobile Foods

- In April, the team completed work on our first highly attended special event of the year, Earth Day, which was held at Idlewild Park. Staff also worked the large multi-weekend Volleyball tournament held at the Reno Sparks Convention Center, as well as a new event, Reno Fest, which was an 11-day long carnival held in the parking lot of the Reno Livestock Events Center.

- Staff completed 9 opening/opening-reinspections for new mobiles or portable units in April. An uptick in mobile and portable unit applications is anticipated as the warmer months arrive.

Foodborne Disease Program

Epidemiology	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022
Foodborne Disease Complaints	9	7	4	6	26	202	107	51
Foodborne Disease Interviews	6	4	3	3	16	115	102	47
Foodborne Disease Investigations	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	4
CD Referrals Reviewed	6	6	5	3	20	61	45	81
Product Recalls Reviewed	9	14	13	22	58	253	268	250

Food Operations Enforcement and Investigations:

A. Dollar Tree #5750, 1141 California Ave, Reno, NV

Staff responded to a complaint regarding a rat infestation. Staff found evidence of a rat infestation and were able to verify the complaint and suspended the permit until the issue is corrected. A reinspection for the facility is still pending.

Permitted Facilities

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- Commercial Plans have continued to decrease at 17.7% year over year for this same time period.
- EHS received 144 Commercial Plans to review and conducted 231 different reviews during the month of March.
- 100% of all plans in April 2025 were reviewed within the regional goal of 14 days.
 - 0 plans of the 144 submitted in April did not meet the regional goal for review.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023
Development Reviews		32	38	24	28	122	202	449
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		128	108	111	144	491	115	1,814
Total Reviews Conducted		217	168	160	231	776	10	2,270
Revision Resubmittal Rate		59%	54%	36%	52%	51%	61	
# Plan Reviews exceeding 14 calendar days		14	8	6	0	28	253	
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		89%	93%	95%	100%	94%	202	
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	104	74	83	121	382	115	1,568
	Food	25	34	28	22	109	10	400
	Pool/Spa	7	2	2	6	17	61	84
	Vector	74	53	41	78	246	253	278
	Hotel/Motel	0	3	1	1	5	202	19
	Environmental	2	2	4	2	10	115	78
	UST / WM	5	0	1	1	7	10	7

Commercial Plan Review Detail	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024
New Reviews Submitted (1st Review)	53	50	71	69	243	826
Reno	36	33	51	47	167	519
Sparks	9	6	9	14	38	171
Washoe	8	11	11	8	38	136
Average days in review (1st Reviews)	6	6	6	5	6	10

Revisions Submitted (2nd Review +)	75	58	40	75	249	903
Reno	53	39	27	57	176	619
Sparks	14	10	6	7	37	192
Washoe County	8	10	7	11	36	92
Average days in review (Revisions)	7	6	5	3	5	12

Program Highlights

- A Seasonal Pool Request page has been utilized to schedule all seasonal pool openings.
 - The booking system allows applicants to schedule the day for their seasonal opening inspections.
 - Each request receives 3 automated emails: an appointment confirmation email, a reminder email 3 days prior to their scheduled date, and a final reminder one day prior to their scheduled date.
 - Each request can also be cancelled prior to the day of inspection, to ensure they do not incur re-inspection fees if they are not ready for their scheduled inspection.
- Staff continue to assist EPHP with environmental assessments and investigations of school illness outbreaks throughout Washoe County.

Vector-Borne Disease Program

- Staff are preparing for mosquito surveillance for the 2025 season.
- NNPH has cancelled mosquito aerial larvicides for the 2025 season.
- Staff are currently recruiting for 4 Public Service Intern Positions.

Vector	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	1	2	5	6	14	51	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	0	403	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	0	151	242	791	821

Environmental Protection

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews

- Well permit applications are fully functional in the Accela Citizen Access (ACA) portal. Staff worked with Technology Services extensively during April to work out a few kinks and streamline the number of documents associated with the inspection side of these permits. Inspection packets used to require five (5) different documents and now only require two (2).
- Staff continue to message to well drillers and property owners that well permits can be applied for online via the ACA portal and most permits applied for in the last month have been applied for via the ACA portal. Team leadership plan to require all well permits be applied for via the ACA portal starting July 1, 2025.
- Extensive updates to the well plan review Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) were necessary after the updates to ACA permitting portal and were completed during April. This SOP is utilized by all staff members performing plan review and approving well permit applications and helps ensure consistency across all inspectors and plan approvals.
- The team partnered with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) to host two free educational classes for owners of properties served by private wells or septic systems. Sixteen (16) people attended the well class, and fourteen (14) people attended the septic class.

- One staff member attended Certified Pool Operator training in April and will begin shadowing pool inspections to gain exposure to another EHS program and in preparation of sitting for their REHS exam.

Land Development	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	0	48	65	77	248	885	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	79	53	86	90	308	1001	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	8	14	9	8	39	115	90	141	150

Safe Drinking Water

- Two sanitary surveys were completed in the month of April.
- A new public water system (PWS), Silver Circle Ranch, was added to the list requiring inspection this year, leaving 15 surveys remaining to be inspected before the end of 2025.
- An inactive PWS, Washoe Valley Properties, was reactivated during April after installing a nitrate removal system and addressing numerous items from their 2023 sanitary survey.
- A Nitrate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation was issued to Western Nevada Materials PWS on April 3, 2025. This facility is a recently discovered PWS and Nitrate was reported at 11 ug/L when the MCL is 10 ug/L. The facility immediately posted a Do Not Drink public notice and provides bottled water to their employees and customers.
- Discussions continued with BSDW regarding a grant for sampling PFAS in residential wells. BSDW has received federal monies to conduct the sampling to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of PFAS in residential, non-regulated wells. The intent is to have the team conduct the sampling and provide results and educational materials to homeowners. It is also possible that there may be additional funds available for property owners that need treatment through BSDW. BSDW is preparing a scope of work and once received, planning will begin in earnest.
- Staff continued to cross train on and refine procedures for conducting Continuous Verification (CV) of facilities that have been previously determined to be inactive or do not meet the requirements of a PWS. The CV process includes checking in with these facilities on a rotating basis throughout the year to ensure they do not meet the definition of a PWS.
- Staff processed monitoring compliance for calendar year 2024 throughout March and April. This consisted of reviewing a list of missed water quality samples from numerous PWS's for various timeframes in 2024. Some samples are required to be collected monthly, quarterly, every 6 months or anytime during the calendar year. Fifteen (15) monitoring violations were issued to four different PWS's for missed water quality samples in 2024.
- Staff began processing Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) for all Community PWSs during April. A CCR is an annual document that PWS's are required to produce and distribute to their customers, detailing the quality of the drinking water they receive. The review process consists of comparing PWS provided water quality data to the data entered in the Safe Drinking Water Information System. It also includes ensuring that PWS's include all applicable violation information and applicable health effects language in their CCR. In 2025, a new requirement of the CCR includes notifying water system customers on how they can obtain a copy of their PWS's Lead Service Line Inventory.

Safe Drinking Water	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024
Sanitary Survey	1	0	2	2	5	23
Level 1 Assessments	1	0	0	0	1	6
Level 2 Assessments	1	0	1	0	2	2
Water Projects Received	0	0	2	0	2	23

Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- UST staff inspected 17 fuel sites in the month of April and 17 compliance document review re-inspections.
- Zero construction permits were received for UST projects, and one construction inspection was conducted for the month of April. No plans were received for UST systems.
- UST staff referred a UST site to NDEP for formal enforcement. A date for delivery prohibition has not been established and NDEP has not sent out their final notice to the site notifying them of their intent to install delivery prohibition equipment. NNPH continues to work with the operator on solutions to repair and upgrade the system, but the operator has not decided on a contractor to perform those upgrades.
- UST staff is scheduled to conduct two joint inspections in May with NDEP in order to fulfill the obligations of the contract between NDEP and NNPH.
- UST staff received notification from a contractor that two tanks that are severely out of compliance are going to be removed from the ground and closed in June. Staff notified him of the permit requirements and requested at least 48 hours of notification prior to the closure.
- Staff received 17 complaints for the month of April.
- WM staff inspected 13 permitted waste facilities/liquid waste trucks and conducted one re-inspection. The team conducted an opening inspection for a waste hauler permit and a liquid waste truck. There were no opening re-inspections. Additionally, staff received three applications for liquid waste trucks. Fees were not paid until May so permits were not issued.
- Staff completed their draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan update and provided it to Division Director and Deputy Health Officer for review. Once the review is completed, it will be presented to the Board of Health and provided to the State.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022
Child Care	16	14	12	5	47	119	133	128
Food/Exempt Food	285	321	348	346	1300	3803	3,576	4,419
Schools/Institutions	25	45	24	45	139	276	300	292
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	15	7	7	8	37	285	110	130
Temporary IBD Events	0	0	1	0	1	147	36	5
Liquid Waste Trucks	24	18	5	3	50	161	113	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	16	2	12	2	32	97	108	121
Public Accommodations	7	6	7	4	24	126	68	139
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	3	49	59	105	216	847	739	712
RV Dump Station	2	0	5	0	7	2	14	21
Underground Storage Tanks	19	18	17	17	71	210	202	161
Waste Management	13	31	17	14	75	139	166	132
Temporary Foods/Special Events	23	24	29	120	196	1342	1,358	1,174
Complaints	40	58	53	68	219	654	760	613
TOTAL	488	593	596	737	2,414	8,208	7,683	8,158
EHS Public Record Requests	165	180	221	209	818	3,361	4,962	5,707

Complaints:

Complaint Breakdown	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022
EHS - Invasive Body Decoration	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	
EHS - Food	21	26	32	34	113	276	248	
EHS - General	1	1	0	0	2	4	4	
EHS - Hotels/Motels	1	3	1	3	8	23	20	
EHS - Liquid Waste	5	5	1	10	21	64	62	
EHS - Mobile Home/RV Park	0	1	0	0	1	6	9	
EHS - Pools/Spas	1	0	0	1	2	16	3	
EHS - Schools	1	1	1	1	4	33	3	
EHS - Solid Waste	10	13	17	12	52	157	177	
EHS - Vector	0	6	1	5	12	59	98	
EHS - Waste Mgt	0	1	0	2	3	12	3	
EHS - Wells	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	

New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	1	0	1	0	2	10	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	33	39	31	43	146	428	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	3	1	4	5	13	32	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	3	1	4	1	9	41	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	2	0	0	1	3	6	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	0	0	0	1	1	4	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/Pools/Spas	0	0	0	6	6	26	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	3	0	1	5	9	13	8	6
TOTAL	44	44	40	58	186	559	716	605	614

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