

**Environmental Health Services  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: April 24, 2025**

**DATE:** April 11, 2025

**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).

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**Environmental Health Program Activities:**

**Consumer Protection Programs**

**Food Safety Plan Review & Operations**

*Special Processes & Program Standards Team*

- Senior REHS staff attended the biennial Conference for Food Protection (CFP) which is a collaborative effort with representatives from the food industry, government, academia, and consumer organizations to identify and address emerging problems of food safety and to formulate recommendations for regulation. NNPH staff served as a council alternate for Council III, Science and Technology, and as an alternate State Delegate.

*Food Safety Plan Review*

- Staff have been working with Washoe County School District Incline High School on new construction for a commercial kitchen which is projected to be completed by the end of March. All construction on the commercial kitchen has been signed off by NNPH.
- Staff approved the opening of the new CARES Campus dining hall and commercial kitchen. EHS staff worked with Washoe County Engineering to ensure the design of the facility met the requirements for a “highly susceptible population”. Hand sinks were placed at the entrance of the dining room with procedures put in place to ensure all users properly wash their hands upon entering the facility to limit the possible spread of illness.

*Temp Foods / Special Events / Mobile Foods*

- There is an increase in the amount of temporary food and promoter permit application submittals for March as the upcoming special events season draws closer.
- Members of the team took part in after-hours mobile food inspections and enforcement of unpermitted vendors. Efforts were successful as staff were able to find and inspect mobiles that

were past due for routine health inspections and provide information on how to obtain a health permit to vendors that were observed operating without one.

### Foodborne Disease Program

<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>JAN 2025</b>	<b>FEB 2025</b>	<b>MAR 2025</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Foodborne Disease Complaints	9	7	4	20	202	107	51
Foodborne Disease Interviews	6	4	3	13	115	102	47
Foodborne Disease Investigations	0	0	0	0	10	7	4
CD Referrals Reviewed	6	6	5	17	61	45	81
Product Recalls Reviewed	9	14	13	36	253	268	250

### Food Operations Enforcement and Investigations:

#### *A. Pinches Tacos, Portable Unit, 2900 Clearacre Ln Reno*

Office hearing was held on March 12, 2024, related to the suspended permit and the lack of managerial control. After the hearing a reinspection of the unit was conducted to ensure all equipment including the hand sink was properly working. The permit was reinstated at the time of the inspection.

#### *B. Reno Tea Bar, 1310 Scheels Dr Sparks*

Routine inspection was conducted on March 17, 2025, where multiple critical violations were discovered including the lack of knowledge on how to wash, rinse and sanitize utensils and improper use of time as a public health control. The operator was required to complete multiple Active Managerial Control (AMC) policies to address the lack of knowledge and an office hearing was held on March 21, 2025. After the office hearing, a reinspection was conducted and the facility's permit was reinstated.

### **Permitted Facilities**

#### Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- EHS staff met on site at the Liberty Dogs complex to discuss the status of construction, complete inspections and discuss future inspections and permitting. The project is on track for finalization later this year.
- Commercial Plans have continued to decrease at 19% year over year for this same time period.
- EHS received 111 Commercial Plans to review and conducted 160 different reviews during the month of March.
- 97% of all plans in March 2025 were reviewed within the regional goal of 14 days.
  - 3 plans of the 111 submitted in March did not meet the regional goal for review.
- Development reviews continue to track with previous years, indicating there is a focus on future development within the region.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023
Development Reviews		32	38	23	93	202	449
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		128	108	112	348	115	1,814
Total Reviews Conducted		217	168	160	545	10	2,270
Revision Resubmittal Rate		59%	54%	36%	50%	61	
# Plan Reviews exceeding 14 calendar days		10	7	3	21	253	
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		92%	94%	97%	94%	202	
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	104	74	83	261	115	1,568
	Food	25	34	28	87	10	400
	Pool/Spa	7	2	2	11	61	84
	Vector	74	53	41	168	253	278
	Hotel/Motel	0	3	1	4	202	19
	Environmental	2	2	4	8	115	78
	UST / WM	5	0	1	6	10	7

Commercial Plan Review Detail		JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024
New Reviews Submitted (1st Review)		53	50	71	174	826
Reno		36	33	51	120	519
Sparks		9	6	9	24	171
Washoe		8	11	11	30	136
Average days in review (1st Reviews)		6	6	6	6	10
Revisions Submitted (2nd Review +)		75	58	40	174	903
Reno		53	39	27	119	619
Sparks		14	10	6	30	192
Washoe County		8	10	7	25	92
Average days in review (Revisions)		7	6	5	6	12

### Program Highlights

- Pool season officially started April 1 and staff are working to open seasonally permitted pools and spas. NNPH implemented a new online self-service scheduling system allowing the public to schedule a date for inspection and cancel as needed. This new system is designed to streamline inspection requests and maximize staff time in the field.
- 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.

Vector	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	2	2	5	9	51	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	403	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	151	242	791	821

### Compliance and Enforcement Activities

#### A. *Vagabond Inn, 3131 S Virginia St*

EHS staff responded to the Vagabond Motel at 3131 South Virginia St, after a walkthrough of the property found various rooms occupied. EHS closed two additional rooms for drug-related waste and contamination. A notice of violation was sent to the property owners regarding the closed rooms,

previous closed rooms and the public swimming pool on the property. To date, there has been no response and further enforcement actions will be pursued.

## **Environmental Protection**

### **Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews**

- Plan intake for septic and wells for the month increased to 73 in March from 48 in February. The team conducted 91 total site inspections.
- One variance was heard on March 6 by the Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Board (SWS) for the installation of an alternative advanced treatment technology. The SWS recommended several additional conditions and approved the variance request. The variance was presented to the District Board of Health at their March 2025 meeting and was approved with no additional conditions.
- The program supervisor testified before the Board of Adjustments – the appeal Board for Code Enforcement – regarding a complaint that Code Enforcement was appealing. The Land Development team had involvement with the building permit and septic construction that was a focus of code enforcement's investigation and was there to provide technical expertise to the Board.

<b>Land Development</b>	<b>JAN 2025</b>	<b>FEB 2025</b>	<b>MAR 2025</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	58	48	65	171	885	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	79	53	86	218	1001	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	8	14	9	31	115	90	141	150

### **Safe Drinking Water**

- Two sanitary surveys were completed in the month of March. A new public water system (PWS) was added to the list requiring inspection this year, leaving 17 surveys remaining to be inspected before the end of 2025.
- The team attended the 2025 Nevada Water & Wastewater Conference, which provides training on all aspects of public water systems, including operator and regulatory requirements. The team senior co-presented at the conference with a NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) staff member. Two staff members also attended an Emergency Response and Sanitary Survey training course.
- A Level 2 Assessment was conducted at the Black Rock Station Public Water System on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This PWS also had a Level 2 Assessment in January, but bacteriological samples continued to be present for Total Coliform, triggering another Level 2 Assessment. The March assessment revealed a couple of items that may be contributing to the positive Coliform samples. The PWS staff have since developed a plan to make repairs and fully disinfect the system.
- A found PWS, Western Nevada Materials, self-reported to NDEP BSDW, who then contacted NNPH. The system has started the process of becoming permitted and is also exploring the option of connecting to TMWA. Staff conducted an initial sanitary survey of the system and issued a report as part of the permitting process.
- Discussions with BSDW began 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.

Safe Drinking Water	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024
Sanitary Survey	1	0	2	3	23
Level 1 Assessments	1	0	0	1	6
Level 2 Assessments	1	0	1	2	2
Water Projects Received	0	0	2	2	23

#### Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- UST staff inspected 17 fuel sites in the month of March and 16 compliance document review re-inspections.
- Zero construction permits were received for UST projects and zero construction inspections were conducted for the month of March. Staff reviewed two plans for March: one was for an above ground tank system and the other was for a permit NNPH has already issued.
- WM staff inspected 15 permitted waste facilities and conducted two re-inspections. The team conducted zero opening inspections of permitted waste facilities with no opening re-inspections.
- WM staff conducted one routine inspection on one liquid waste pump truck with no re-inspections. The team also conducted four opening inspections of new liquid waste pump trucks with no opening re-inspections.
- Staff received a failed annual tightness test for piping for a UST site which ceased fuel sales immediately. Staff told the operator to submit a Spill Report to NDEP. Upon notification, NDEP issued the R-Spill / complaint letter requiring the operator and owner to investigate the issue and submit documentation detailing the extent of the possible release. To date, neither NDEP nor NNPH have received additional documentation of investigation, repairs and/or upgrades from the operator or the property owner.

#### **Inspections:**

EHS Inspections	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022
Child Care	16	14	12	42	119	133	128
Food/Exempt Food	285	321	348	954	3803	3,576	4,419
Schools/Institutions	25	45	23	93	276	300	292
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	15	7	7	29	285	110	130
Temporary IBD Events	0	0	1	1	147	36	5
Liquid Waste Trucks	24	18	5	47	161	113	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	16	2	12	30	97	108	121
Public Accommodations	7	6	7	20	126	68	139
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	3	49	59	111	847	739	712
RV Dump Station	2	0	5	7	2	14	21
Underground Storage Tanks	19	18	17	54	210	202	161
Waste Management	13	31	16	60	139	166	132
Temporary Foods/Special Events	23	24	29	76	1342	1,358	1,174
Complaints	40	57	49	146	654	760	613
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>7,683</b>	<b>8,158</b>
EHS Public Record Requests	165	180	221	566	3,361	4,962	5,707

### Complaints:

Complaint Breakdown	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022
EHS - Invasive Body Decoration	0	0	0	0	4	1	
EHS - Food	21	26	32	79	276	248	
EHS - General	1	1	0	2	4	4	
EHS - Hotels/Motels	1	3	1	5	23	20	
EHS - Liquid Waste	5	4	1	10	64	62	
EHS - Mobile Home/RV Park	0	1	0	1	6	9	
EHS - Pools/Spas	1	0	0	1	16	3	
EHS - Schools	1	1	1	3	33	3	
EHS - Solid Waste	10	13	13	36	157	177	
EHS - Vector	0	6	1	7	59	98	
EHS - Waste Mgt	0	1	0	1	12	3	
EHS - Wells	0	1	0	1	4	0	

### New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	YTD 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	1	0	1	2	10	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	33	41	30	102	428	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	6	2	4	8	32	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	3	1	4	8	41	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	4	0	0	2	6	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	0	0	0	0	4	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/Pools/Spas	0	0	0	0	26	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	3	0	4	9	13	8	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>559</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.