

**Environmental Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: November 21, 2024**

DATE: November 14, 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 launched a revised Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program webpage with help from NNPH Communications Team. The new webpage includes all the AMC Program instructional videos in both English and Spanish. Additionally, new resources on the webpage include quick-reference guidance documents for writing policies to control for the six most common critical violations observed in food establishments. There are also quick-reference guidance documents for developing training programs and verification protocols within food establishments. This webpage and the associated resources are to be used in conjunction with the AMC Program course and Food Safety Overview course that is taught twice monthly by members of the Special Processes & Program Standards Team.
- Senior EHS Olivia Alexander-Leeder traveled with EHS Trainee, Ryan Rennie, to the NACCHO Mentorship End-of-Year Meeting in St. Louis, MO, from October 28 to November 1. In 2024, the NNPH Food Safety Team has served as mentors to the Detroit Health Department Environmental Health and Safety Program, the Yolo County Environmental Health Division, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Environmental Health and Disease Prevention (out of Saipan, MP). The NACCHO Mentorship is a grant-funded program that matches mentor and mentee jurisdictions across the United States to share information and uplift each other in attaining adherence to the FDA Retail Food Program Standards. At the End-of-Year Meeting, NNPH representatives participated as panelists for the mentor breakout session, presenters for the site-visit highlights section, and table leads for the Standard 9 workgroup. As presenters for the site-visit highlights section, Olivia and Ryan shared the incredible work accomplished by NNPH and our mentees in the Retail Food Program Standards during the 2024 cohort.

Food Safety Plan Review

- Staff completed the construction and opening inspections for a new grocery facility called El Super on located over on Oddie Ave. This facility will have full-service bakery, grocery, meat area, and deli.

Temp Foods / Special Events

- The largest event in October was The Great Italian Festival, which had over 90 temporary food permits to inspect and spanned 2 days in Downtown Reno. NNPH staff also worked the Reno Air Show, Several Pumpkin Patches and Fall Festivals, Day of the Dead, The Offbeat Music Festival, Oktoberfest events, and more.

Foodborne Disease Program

- Staff conducted one environmental assessment at a local food establishment after receiving three foodborne disease complaints for the facility within a 30-day period. While conducting the environmental assessment and associated routine inspection, inspectors observed six critical violations and issued a Fail score to the food establishment. The food establishment operator was required to attend the Active Managerial Control (AMC) Program course and will receive a reinspection to verify development of meaningful food safety policies and control of foodborne disease risk factors within 30 days.

Epidemiology	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Foodborne Disease Complaints	7	9	7	14	16	25	12	10	7	28	135	107	51	98
Foodborne Disease Interviews	4	7	12	6	12	22	6	4	4	16	93	102	47	59
Foodborne Disease Investigations	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	7	7	4	12
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	2	8	2	2	2	5	15	4	7	49	45	81	178
Product Recalls Reviewed	29	35	14	19	17	26	18	18	11	23	210	268	250	251

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews

- Commercial Plan staff met the regional goal, reviewing 90% of all plans within the regional time frame for the month of September.
 - Year to date, EHS staff have reviewed 74% of commercial plans within the regional goal of 14 calendar days.
- EHS Commercial Plans received 155 plans during the month of October, resulting in 229 different reviews by EHS Staff.
- 62% of plans submitted in October were revisions, while 52% of plans were revisions year to date.
- Specific information regarding New Commercial Plan reviews submitted and Revised Commercial Plan reviews has been added and will be included in the chart below going forward.
- The Plan Review team has been working with a hotel owner and developer to address inconsistencies with lighting requirements to operate the outdoor pool and spa after dark. Staff worked to find a solution and will be conducting a field verification.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Development Reviews		42	17	28	24	41	38	24	24	24	27	289	449	494	400
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		152	152	122	171	172	166	148	161	125	155	1,524	1,814	1,555	1,169
Total Reviews Conducted		189	205	162	237	225	237	221	252	200	229	2,157	2,270		
Revision Resubmittal Rate		56%	45%	54%	39%	48%	61%	55%	56%	47%	62%	53%			
# Plan Reviews exceeding 14 calendar days		48	17	18	58	75	62	56	52	13		399			
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		68%	89%	85%	66%	56%	63%	62%	68%	90%		64%			
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	107	118	89	119	127	122	113	121	95	105	1,116	1,568		
	Food	40	35	32	55	45	41	34	38	24	54	397	400		
	Pool/Spa	2	5	6	14	7	12	4	14	8	9	81	84		
	Vector	31	43	30	38	33	51	63	68	63	54	477	278		
	Hotel/Motel	2	0	1	5	1	2	1	3	3	2	20	19		
	Environmental	4	3	1	1	9	3	5	5	4	3	38	78		
	UST / WM	3	1	3	5	3	3	1	3	4	2	28	7		

Commercial Plan Review Detail	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024
New Reviews Submitted (1st Review)	67	83	56	105	90	65	67	71	66	59	729
Reno	43	57	33	59	65	40	45	42	45	35	464
Sparks	8	19	16	33	13	10	13	17	14	11	154
Washoe	16	7	7	13	12	15	9	12	7	13	111
Average days in review (1st Reviews)	9	7	8	13	14	11	13	11	8		10
Revisions Submitted (2nd Review +)	85	69	66	66	82	101	81	90	59	96	795
Reno	66	46	48	47	57	63	52	64	38	63	544
Sparks	15	15	11	16	15	28	17	15	13	24	169
Washoe County	4	8	7	3	10	10	12	11	8	9	82
Average days in review (Revisions)	12	10	10	13	14	15	14	14	8		11

Permitted Facilities

- NNPH Permitted Facilities staff completed opening inspections for a hotel.
 - Approximately 6 rooms remain to be inspected and released for occupancy due to missing items and delays.
 - The associated pool and spa permits have also been issued and they are operating at this time.
- Staff are reviewing multiple projects with mercury remediation proposals required to develop the areas. These specific reviews take an immense amount of time to complete the review as well as validate all sampling data and proposed work.

Environmental Protection

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews

- Septic and well inspections picked up during October, likely due to contractors trying to get work done before winter hits.
- The team finalized a troubleshooting guide for use on septic and well inspections. This guide will be useful for newer inspectors as they come across situations in the field where modifications to the approved plan have occurred.
- The Sewage Wastewater and Sanitation (SWS) Advisory Board heard a variance request for a septic system to be built on a property where municipal sewer is available. The SWS Board recommended approval of the variance request and it was heard by the District Board of Health and approved.

Land Development	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	76	80	78	84	83	81	80	81	67	76	786	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	114	87	95	105	93	86	84	76	55	84	879	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	13	11	10	10	13	15	4	4	5	16	101	90	141	150
Water Projects Received	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	11	12	25	40

Safe Drinking Water

- Two sanitary surveys were completed in October. Six water systems remain to have a survey for 2024. All surveys are expected to be completed for the year. Holy Spirit Catholic Church was inactivated during October due to it being a total loss from the Davis Fire.
- In the month of October, the team issued a Level 1 Assessment at one public water system due to confirmed positive bacteriological sampling. Level 1 Assessments.
- Team leadership worked to ensure all Washoe County Public Water Systems can comply with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and complete their Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) by the October 16, 2024, deadline. All systems except one met the deadline. Once the LSLI’s were received team leadership began reviewing them and requesting revisions where appropriate. Many inventories have required NDEP guidance and input, and staff continue to follow up on these inventories.
- Three team members attended the American Water Works Association California-Nevada annual conference held at the Reno Sparks Convention Center. This conference covered current and upcoming regulatory requirements that apply to many of our regulated public water systems in Washoe County.
- The Verdi Mutual Water Company public water system had a positive source water sample test for E. coli during October. Team leadership consulted with NDEP staff regarding the appropriate response which included a Boil Water Order and a site visit. The site visit identified a few items that the public water system needs to correct, and copies of all current backflow test results have been requested. The water system has also been placed on monthly E. coli source water monitoring to help determine if the E. coli positive was an anomaly or a larger issue.

Vector-Borne Disease Program

- All routine collections of adult mosquitoes have concluded for the 2024 calendar year.
- Staff submitted a single California Ground Squirrel for rabies/plague testing following a human exposure in East Sparks.
 - The animal tested negative for rabies and plague results are still pending at the time of this report.

Vector	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEPT 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	1	0	0	7	16	9	4	6	4	1	48	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	21	75	101	162	44	0	403	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	0	14	21	40	58	18	0	151	242	791	821

Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- UST staff inspected 19 fuel sites in for the month of October.
- UST Staff witnessed closure of two sites this month. One site removed the tanks and piping, and the other site did a closure in place. Staff was also on site to witness assessment activities and have yet to receive closure reports.

- Staff has received notification that a new system is being installed in November and notification that another site will be closed as well.
- WM staff issued three Biohazardous Waste Generator permits for each Renown site. All known biohazardous waste generators in Washoe County are now permitted.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	14	11	11	11	2	5	5	8	12	15	94	133	128	118
Food/Exempt Food	323	330	306	386	380	308	341	248	362	346	3,330	3,576	4,419	4,959
Schools/Institutions	14	29	34	14	44	14	0	6	12	11	178	300	292	291
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	10	15	10	13	3	2	3	15	14	25	110	110	130	134
Temporary IBD Events	2	0	0	0	74	69	0	0	2	0	147	36	5	0
Liquid Waste Trucks	6	27	28	4	5	24	5	7	4	14	124	113	111	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	4	0	21	14	0	1	5	18	24	87	108	121	117
Public Accommodations	14	12	17	3	1	1	0	8	2	10	68	68	139	151
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	53	45	44	88	255	149	94	36	24	21	809	739	712	1,128
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	14	21	19
Underground Storage Tanks	17	18	17	22	20	15	17	18	21	19	184	202	161	4
Waste Management	14	19	17	12	15	14	9	11	12	10	133	166	132	146
Temporary Foods/Special Events	24	15	12	55	92	321	147	370	110	125	1271	1,358	1,174	766
Complaints	33	40	39	50	62	47	50	57	46	58	482	760	613	689
TOTAL	524	565	535	679	967	969	672	789	639	687	7,026	7,683	8,158	8,633
EHS Public Record Requests	330	234	518	284	354	212	249	370	300	231	3,123	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	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
EHS - Invasive Body Decoration	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1		
EHS - Food	18	23	26	30	23	19	19	13	27	27	225	248		
EHS - General	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4		
EHS - Hotels/Motels	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	14	20		
EHS - Liquid Waste	0	4	3	1	3	0	0	4	1	1	22	62		
EHS - Mobile Home/RV Park	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	9		
EHS - Pools/Spas	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	3	1	1	12	3		
EHS - Schools	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3		
EHS - Solid Waste	11	8	4	14	20	4	14	28	10	10	126	177		
EHS - Vector	1	0	1	1	9	19	13	3	2	2	57	98		
EHS - Waste Mgt	0	1	1	0	3	1	3	0	1	1	12	3		
EHS - Wells	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0		

New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024	SEP 2024	OCT 2024	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	23	25	30	39	56	42	30	48	36	40	369	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	6	4	1	5	1	2	2	6	5	2	34	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	3	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	11	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	6	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	6	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	0	4	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	12	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	10	13	8	6
TOTAL	36	40	36	48	62	46	37	58	44	52	459	716	605	614

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