



Humboldt County Department of
Health & Human Services

Public Health

Division of Environmental Health

Program Guide

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Summary



Early in the 20th century, infections associated with overcrowding, poor housing, unsanitary food management practices, and contaminated water resulted in transmission of tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and dysentery. Accidental releases of hazardous wastes from industrial operations have caused catastrophic and long-lasting impacts to public health and the environment. Environmental health programs were developed to minimize the probability and intensity of accidental releases. Improvements in housing, public water sanitation, including filtration and chlorination, waste management, and disposal systems have resulted in great progress in the control of disease, frequency of injury, and prevention of environmental degradation.

Though implementation of environmental health has mitigated the impacts of historical conditions, the need for disease prevention remains as strong as ever. The Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Environmental Health (DEH) plays a critical role in prevention of disease. Issues such as safe drinking water, proper sewage and solid waste disposal, management of hazardous materials and emergency response continue to present challenges.

DEH intends to remain prepared for these challenges by strengthening programs and developing a professional and trained staff.

DEH will continue to be progressive in maintaining effective programs and responding to emergent issues such as climate change, cyclical drought, catastrophic wildfires, depletion and contamination of water resources, Harmful Algal Blooms, biological and chemical terrorism, emergency preparedness and emergency sheltering of individuals who are unhoused. New disease prevention efforts include implementation of the Tobacco Retail Licensing ordinance and providing proactive inspection and assessment services for sites potentially contaminated by lead.

DEH Purpose

Prevent disease, injury and illness caused by harmful environmental conditions.

The purpose of an environmental health organization is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the public and to preserve and improve the quality of the environment.

In carrying out this purpose, the Division of Environmental Health will:

- ✓ Work toward the prevention of communicable disease in the community through the assessment and mitigation of environmental conditions associated with negative public health outcomes from water and food supplies, solid and liquid wastes, disease vectors, body art and public swimming facilities.
- ✓ Protect the public from exposure to improperly managed hazardous materials and wastes.
- ✓ Advocate for sound environmental health principles in land use planning and development.
- ✓ Seek ways to improve permit processing and compliance assistance.
- ✓ Educate the community on the need to protect and maintain a safe and healthful environment.
- ✓ Foster and encourage the reduction and elimination of solid and hazardous wastes.
- ✓ Provide cost-effective services to the public in a courteous, professional, and efficient manner.
- ✓ Conduct an enforcement program that is fair, reasonable, consistent, and effective pursuant to our legal responsibilities.
- ✓ Foster and maintain a positive, productive and rewarding workplace for DEH staff.
- ✓ Maintain and establish good working relationships with other departments, agencies, community partners, the media, and other organizations to accomplish our common goals.

Legal Authority

Legal authority for environmental health programs is found in a variety of local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Sections of California Health and Safety Code (HSC), California Code of Regulations (CCR), California Water Code (CWC) and California Public Resources Code (PRC) provide regulatory framework and administrative procedures related to public health protections, and explicitly identify the Director of Environmental Health and Registered Environmental Health Specialists as Enforcement Officers in support of the Local Health Officer (LHO).

The county Health Officer is tasked with enforcing all orders and ordinances of the Board of Supervisors, including quarantine and other statutes and regulations related to public health (HSC §101030). Representing the public health interest's basic services, articulated in 17 CCR §1276, shall be offered to the jurisdictions for which the LHO represents and includes programs with oversight of the following:

- ✓ Food
- ✓ Housing and institutions
- ✓ Radiological health in local jurisdictions contracting with the State Department of Health to enforce the Radiation Control Law pursuant to HSC §114960 - §115273
- ✓ Milk and dairy products in local jurisdictions maintaining an approved milk inspection service pursuant to FAC CA FOOD & AG §32503
- ✓ Water-oriented recreation
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Vector control
- ✓ Waste management
- ✓ Water supply
- ✓ Air sanitation
- ✓ Additional environmentally related services and programs as required by the county Board of Supervisors, City Council or Health District Board
- ✓ And may include land development and use.

It is important to note that jurisdictions may opt, in some cases, to have programs implemented by state agencies, as described for Radiological Health. In Humboldt County, for example, the safety of milk and dairy production is ensured by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and air sanitation is regulated by North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District.

Implementation oversight of environmental health programs requires a Director of Environmental Health that holds a valid certificate of registration as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist in the State of California (HSC §106600-106735) and shall have had three or more years of experience in an environmental health agency (17 CCR §1308).

Definition and Organization of Environmental Health

Environmental health is the science and practice of preventing human injury and illness and promoting well-being by:

- ✓ Identifying and evaluating environmental sources and hazardous agents and
- ✓ Limiting exposures to hazardous physical, chemical, and biological agents in air, water, soil, food and other environmental media or settings that may adversely affect human health.

2022.neha.org/about-neha/definitions-environmental-health

Environmental Health, a Division under the Department of Health & Human Services' Public Health Branch, works to maintain and improve the physical and built environment through collaboration with government and private sector agencies and by implementing regulatory and educational interactions with industry and the public. The focus is on prevention of disease and the protection and promotion of public well-being.

Disease prevention is characterized by efforts to break the chain of transmission of disease or the occurrence of unhealthful conditions. Examples of prevention are illustrated in restaurant inspections which guard the safe preparation and handling of food products offered for public consumption, and, in the routine collection and analysis of water samples from drinking water supplies for the detection of bacteriological and chemical contamination. This activity is designed to detect and prevent enteric water-borne diseases and to identify unsafe water.

Well-being of the public is promoted by environmental health activities which assess hazardous elements or situations and require articulation, and execution, of management plans to minimize the potential for accidental release and the control of harmful nuisances which would otherwise interfere with the comfort and enjoyment of the environment by all who live in, or visit, Humboldt County.

Environmental health strategies are implemented in a variety of programs, organized to reduce, or eliminate one or more community environmental health risks. The categories listed in 17 CCR §1276(e) and §1371 and local needs inform initiation and implementation plans.

Environmental Health program planning includes three steps:

1. Defining the purpose and scope, including mandated responsibility and legal authority
2. Specifying objectives of the program with respect to public or environmental health outcomes
3. Describing activities and implementation plans necessary to achieve stated objectives.

The program plan described herein represents the results of these steps for local implementation and will follow the planning format described above.

Environmental Health Program Summary

DEH's programs are organized under three operational units, each managed by a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist. The program units include Consumer Protection, Land Use and Hazardous Materials.

CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Program: Retail Food

Purpose and Scope: Foodborne illness can result when operational decisions cause food to be adulterated with physical, chemical, or biological contaminants. Operations benefit from unannounced inspections and consultations related to statutory food management requirements. Staff assess operations to minimize potential for contamination and growth of pathogens associated with foodborne illness including *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *E.coli*, *Listeria*, *Shigella* and viruses such as *Norovirus*.

This effort aims to prevent the outbreak of food borne illness to ensure that food provided directly to consumers is free of adulteration and is wholesome and safe to eat. Implementation prioritizes education and collaboration and is completed in a manner uniform with programs of other jurisdictions in the state. When food establishment operators fail to cooperate and violate the provisions of the law, enforcement action may be required to achieve compliance.

The program encourages protection of the health of the food worker through assessment of facilities for safe and sanitary working conditions for operations that store, prepare, package, serve, vend, or otherwise provide food for human consumption directly to the consumer or through a delivery service.

Legal Authorities: HSC §113700 et seq. (Cal Code); HSC §109875 et seq. (Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law); 17 CCR §13600-13616; 17 CCR, §1254 and §1308; HCC §511 (Permits for Food Establishments).

Objectives:

- a. Minimize the incidence of foodborne illnesses originating from retail food facilities in Humboldt County.
- b. Ensure retail food establishments operate in accordance with California Retail Food Code (CalCode).
- c. Ensure retail food facility operators and staff are trained in safe food handling and sanitation practices. Provide standardized and consistent inspection services, prioritizing collaboration, and education to promote safe food production.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Evaluate, measure, and improve the level of environmental health conditions in all food facilities.
- b. Conduct routine, risk-based inspections, and special inspections of all food facilities for which the agency is legally responsible to ensure compliance with requirements for sanitation, operation, and maintenance.
- c. Conduct legal enforcement activities, including office hearings, when education and inspection efforts fail to achieve desired results.
- d. Investigate and affect corrective action on citizen reports of foodborne illness outbreaks and unsanitary conditions in food facilities. Coordinate with Public Health Communicable Disease Nursing and Epidemiology staff in response to foodborne illness outbreaks and to monitor observable trends to identify program priorities.
- e. Review of food facility plans to ensure proper construction and compliance with CalCode.
- f. Coordinate with Building Department staff of local jurisdiction to ensure completion of review and compliance with applicable safety regulations.

Program: Organized Camps and Detention Facilities

Purpose and Scope: To ensure that organized camps and detention facilities provide a safe and suitable environment, including safe water supply, proper sewage disposal and safe and wholesome food preparation. Detention facilities include the county jail and juvenile hall. Organized Camps include those that provide an outdoor living experience for five or more days out of the year.

Legal Authorities: 8 CCR §3362, HSC §114244 - §124245.7 (Refuse), 15 CCR §1006 et seq., §1270 et seq., § 1280., §1313 et seq., §1480 et seq., §1510 et seq., HSC §101045 (Detention Facilities), 17 CCR §30700 et seq. (Organized Camps), HSC §18207 (Mobile Home Parks Act) 24 CCR, Part 1 (California Administrative Code) 24 CCR, Part 2 (California Building Code) 25 CCR, §6 (Housing and Community Development); HSC §17000 et seq. (Employee Housing Act), HSC §17910-17998.3 (State Housing Law), HSC §18897-§18897.7 (Organized Camp), WIC §209, §210, §872, & §885.

Objectives:

To minimize risk of injury and illness at organized camps and detention facilities.

Summary of Activities:

a. Detention Facilities

1. Coordinate with each county and city detention facility to obtain, assess, and ensure compliance with Policies and Procedures related to food production/management and housing sanitation programs.
2. Complete inspections on an annual basis and report findings to the responsible city or county official and to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
3. Investigate complaints of detention facilities regarding sanitation, maintenance, use or occupancy.

b. Organized Camps

1. Inspect organized camps on an annual, or semi-annual basis to ensure compliance with State Law.

Program: Public Pools and Spas

Purpose and Scope: DEH has the responsibility to ensure public pools and spas are constructed and maintained in a safe and healthful manner. The public swimming pool and spa inspection program is based upon a prevention philosophy that relies on

education through routine inspections and response to citizen complaints. To maintain a safe environment, and to prevent the spread of disease in public pools and spas, an effective plan review and surveillance program is essential. Where significant hazards at public swimming pools or spas exist which may cause immediate danger to bathers, immediate closure is required until corrections have been made.

Legal Authorities: HSC §116025 et seq. (sanitation), 22 CCR §65501 et seq., HSC §1797.182, §115950, §115951, §115952 (Public Swimming Pools); California Building Code, Div 1, §3101B et seq., Div 2, §3160B et seq., HCC §332-3, §654-6.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure the safety of recreational bathers at public pools and spas.
- b. Ensure that public pools and spas are constructed, maintained, and operated in a manner that prevents illness and injury.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Conduct timely routine inspections of all public swimming pools and spas.
- b. Respond to citizen's complaints regarding unsanitary or unsafe conditions at public swimming pools or spas.
- c. Review construction plans for public pools and spas and conduct construction inspections to verify compliance with state laws.
- d. Evaluate new equipment proposed for public swimming pools and spas.
- e. Coordinate with Building Department staff of local jurisdictions to ensure completion of review and compliance with applicable safety regulations.

Program: Recreational Waters

Purpose and Scope: DEH uses a preventative approach to promote recreational water safety. Emphasis is placed on public education and surveillance of indicator bacteria and harmful algae blooms (HABS). With support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Beach Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act), DEH staff provide a routine ocean bacteriological water quality sampling and public notification program at local ocean beaches. When state standards are exceeded, the affected beaches are posted, and the public are notified via local media.

DEH assists the California Department of Health Care Services with collection of sentinel mussel samples from the open coast. The mussels are tested by the state for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) and domoic acid, seasonally occurring toxins in local

waters. DEH posts signage publicizing the annual quarantine prescribed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for sport-harvested mussels and other bivalves.

In coordination with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, DEH notifies the public of elevated concentrations of harmful algae in local recreational waters and responds to related complaints. Signage is posted when visual or sample analysis confirms exceedances of safe standards.

Legal Authorities: HSC §115880 et seq., 17 CCR §7952 et seq., (Standards for Public Beaches).

Objectives:

- a. Prevent injury and illness of the general public due to exposure to contaminated waters during recreational activities.
- b. Educate the public on health risks associated with contaminated water or elevated concentrations of harmful algae.
- c. Assist CDPH with monitoring for PSP and domoic acid and notification of recreational harvesters of seasonal quarantines.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Implement ocean beach water quality monitoring as required by state contract.
- b. Post beaches in response to testing results confirming exceedances of bathing standards and conduct follow-up monitoring/sampling as necessary.
- c. Coordinate with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to notify public and post signage at recreational water during HABS exceeding safe standards and provide visual inspections in response to complaints related to HABS.
- d. Annually notify public of health risks associated with recreational bathing waters including bacterial indicator exceedances, HABS and swimmers itch hazard.
- e. Provide consultation and assistance to operators of water recreational areas and to the public regarding water quality requirements and conditions.

Program: Vector and Zoonotic Diseases

Purpose and Scope: To protect the public from health hazards associated with disease transmitting animals. This program is designed to assess and monitor animal populations that can carry disease or become nuisances. This includes, but is not limited to, rats, mice, skunks, birds, mosquitoes, flies, ticks, bedbugs, and cockroaches.

Control of pests and vectors is a responsibility shared among local public agencies, including DEH, the Agricultural Commissioner's office, Code Enforcement teams, the pest control industry, and private landowners. In many cases, the best method of public health protection is prevention through public education.

Legal Authorities: HSC §116125-§116170 (Rodents), HSC §121690, 17 CCR §2606 (Rabies).

Objectives:

- a. Ensure that animals that have potentially infected human individuals with rabies in Humboldt County are tested for the causative agent.
- b. Understand the endemic occurrence of vector-borne diseases, monitor populations to anticipate changes and advise decision makers on associated public health risks.
- c. Educate the public on endemic vector-borne diseases and health risks associated with wild animal populations.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Reduction of rodent food and harborage through public education.
- b. Public education related to minimizing exposure to tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease.
- c. Public education and monitoring for rabies, primarily in skunks, foxes, and bats.
- d. Monitor Culex mosquito activity. Emphasize public education and environmental control for prevention of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases.
- e. Respond to citizen complaints of vector/pest infestations.
- f. Educate public and staff in vector/pest control principles to obtain maximum participation and capacity to control local vector problems.

Program: Body Art

Purpose and Scope: To ensure the application of proper body art procedures to prevent cross-contamination of instruments and supplies to protect both the body art practitioner and client from transmission of infectious diseases. DEH has the responsibility to ensure that all body art facilities and body art practitioners are in compliance with the California Safe Body Art Act. The Body Art Facility Inspection Program is based upon a prevention philosophy that relies on cooperation and education through routine inspections and response to citizen complaints. A routine inspection program ensures a safe environment and prevents the transmission of

infectious diseases in a body art facility. Where significant hazards at body art facilities exist, which may constitute an imminent health hazard to the client or practitioner, immediate closure is required until corrections are completed.

Legal Authorities: HSC §119300 et seq. (California Safe Body Art Act), PEN § 652, §653.

Objective:

- a. Prevent the transmission of disease at body art facilities and ensure the safety of staff and clientele through completion of timely and consistent routine inspections.
- b. Ensure that body art practitioners are properly registered and trained in the prevention of blood-borne disease transmission.
- c. Ensure that body art facilities are properly constructed and equipped.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Conduct annual inspections of all body art facilities to ensure that body art facilities are constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with the California Safe Body Art Act.
- b. Respond to citizen complaints regarding unsanitary or unsafe conditions at body art facilities.
- c. Review construction plans for body art facilities and conduct construction inspections to verify compliance with the California Safe Body Art Act.
- d. Evaluate new equipment proposed for use in body art facilities.

Program: Edible Food Recovery Inspection

Purpose and Scope: To ensure that excess amounts of edible food is properly handled and recovered from large-scale food retailers, wholesalers, and distributors. This is accomplished through on-site inspections of subject food facilities to ensure that excess edible food is recovered through contracts with food recovery agencies, quantified, tracked, and stored and handled in a safe, sanitary manner consistent with California Retail Food Code with the goal of increasing food availability to those in need as well as reducing the volume of organic waste diverted to landfills.

Legal Authorities: §17200 through §17897.25 of Title 14 and Division 2 of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, HCC §521-13, HSC §113700 et seq. (Cal Code).

Objectives:

- a. Ensure that businesses that generate excess edible food and qualify as Tier 1 and Tier 2 generators are registered with DEH for routine annual compliance inspections.
- b. Ensure that edible food is recovered under contract with a recovery agency, properly handled, and safe to eat.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Register Tier 1 and Tier 2 edible food generators, as identified by the local jurisdiction.
- b. Perform annual compliance inspections at registered businesses.
- c. Report inspection results and identified deficiencies to the local jurisdiction.

LAND USE PROGRAMS

Program: Land Use Permits, Development Permits, and Business Licenses

Purpose and Scope: To ensure that proposed developments and businesses within Humboldt County comply with applicable state and local laws within DEH jurisdiction and reduce the chance of harmful impacts to the public and/or the environment. This program relies almost entirely on prevention. The great majority of public and environmental health problems associated with land use projects can be prevented if they are identified, evaluated, and mitigated in the planning stage. The Land Use Program coordinates Environmental Health participation and input during the consideration of development projects proposed through county Planning, local cities, and some state agencies.

Legal Authorities: GOV 66410 et seq., PRC §21000-§21177, HCC §311, §321-12, §322, §323, §324, §325-4&5, §657, §664.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure, through timely review of referrals and concise communication of standards, that proposed land development projects (subdivisions, special permits, use permits, building permits, etc.) will not subject present and future residents to adverse public and environmental health impacts related to sectors under DEH regulatory purview.
- b. Ensure that residential developments are supported by adequate supplies of water for drinking, washing and other processes essential to provide public health and safety protections.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Review proposed tentative tract maps, parcel maps, zone changes, use permit, general plan, amendments, and business license applications to assess potential adverse public and environmental health effects related to DEH programs. Prepare reports of findings and mitigating measures.
- b. Conduct site investigations and evaluate submittals to confirm suitability of sites proposed for development dependent on on-site wastewater treatment systems of the above-mentioned projects to evaluate capacity for public health and environmental effects.
- c. Organize consolidated recommendations, on behalf of DEH, to project referrals received from other agencies.
- d. Verify that land development projects include adequate public or private sewage treatment and disposal facilities to maintain water quality and environmental health standards.
- e. Verify water supplies proposed for all new subdivisions are adequate to sustainably provide sufficient water necessary to ensure public health sanitation.

Program: Water Well Construction / Abandonment

Purpose and Scope: To ensure that water wells are properly located and constructed with annular seals to protect the quality of groundwater resources. The water well program employs a preventive approach to ensure that groundwater will not be exposed to chemical/bacterial contamination and people will not be exposed to safety hazards associated with improperly constructed or abandoned wells.

DEH enforces Humboldt County Code to require any well construction, or destruction, be completed under permit issued by the Health Officer and in conformance with California Well Standards. Permitted well designs are reviewed, issued, and inspected. Each well is a potential threat to groundwater and public safety if not properly constructed or destroyed.

Water well permitting and construction requires consideration of impacts to the environment, per the California Environmental Quality Act, and to the Public Trust. DEH coordinates with county collaborators, and other agencies, to ensure fisheries, recreation, business, and other interests are considered for each proposed well.

Legal Authorities: DWR Bulletin 74-81 & 74-90 (Water Well Standards); WAT §13700 - §13806; HSC §25299.97; HCC §631.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure that ground water is not contaminated through substandard well construction, unpermitted or abandoned wells or inappropriate well siting.
- b. Ensure that all wells are constructed and destroyed by permit and according to state and local standards.
- c. Ensure that no injuries or fatalities occur as a result of unsecured well casings, abandoned or inadequately destroyed wells.
- d. Review and approve water well applications in a reasonable timeframe.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Review applications, coordinate consideration of impacts to Public Trust and the California Environmental Quality Act, issue permits for all well destruction, modification, and construction.
- b. Conduct inspections during construction and destruction of wells to ensure compliance with state and local regulations.
- c. Provide consultation, assistance, and education to well drillers, contractors, consultants, operators, and cities with regard to regulatory requirements for well construction and destruction.
- d. Consult with community members regarding domestic, irrigation or other wells relating to water quality-suspected illnesses or other health concerns.
- e. Investigate reports of abandoned wells and ensure destruction or re-construction.

Program: State Small Public Water Systems

Purpose and Scope: To regulate State Small Water Systems to ensure potable water is provided to the public. State Small Water Systems (SSWS) are defined as having between 5-14 service connections and regularly serve no more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days in a year. Mandated regulation of SSWS is implemented by DEH using a prevention focus with emphasis placed on systematic monitoring and inspections to identify and correct sources of contamination or unsafe conditions before they result in illness or injury. Review and inspection of treatment systems to ensure alignment with health and safety criteria ensures safe and sanitary operations. Corrective and enforcement measures may be taken as needed.

Legal Authorities: HSC §116340, 22CCR §64211 - §64217.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure that no illness occurs from drinking water sourced from a SSWS.

- b. Ensure that operators are informed of sanitation measures and requirements of operating SWSs.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Conduct sanitary surveys of existing and proposed water sources, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities of all state small public water systems. Conduct audit of records, site surveys and pumping and storage equipment checks.
- b. Make inspections of all state small public water systems in accordance with the requirements of the State Water System Construction and Monitoring Standards.
- c. Take appropriate action with respect to issuance or denial of permits to sample public water systems. Approve state small public water systems under the comprehensive conditions of the California Safe Drinking Water Act.
- d. Review bacteriological, general mineral, inorganic/organic chemical, and radiological samples from small water systems at frequencies designated by the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- e. Pursue corrective and enforcement action regarding non-compliance with primary drinking water standards and noncompliance with other state and federal laws, including requirements for public notification related to small public water systems.
- f. Conduct plan checks and inspections of all proposed new state small public water systems or modifications, including equipment installations, site analysis and potential water quality problems.
- g. Provide consultation and assistance to water system and water treatment plant operators, developers, engineers and the public regarding domestic water quality and the applicable laws and regulations.
- h. Investigate citizens' complaints regarding domestic water quality, suspected illnesses, or other public health concerns.

Program: Liquid Wastes (OWTS, septage haulers and greywater/wastewater/waterless systems)

Purpose and Scope: To protect the health of the public and the environment from the improper disposal of sewage developments beyond the jurisdictions served by municipal wastewater treatment service districts. This is accomplished through development and enforcement of local ordinance and regulations for the permitting of OWTS, greywater, waterless treatment systems and waste haulers to ensure compliance with state and local laws. The Liquid Waste Program is an integral part of an Environmental Health Program. Adequate testing and careful planning, effective design and use of on-site wastewater disposal systems provides safe treatment of domestic wastewater. Improper disposal of waste can result in significant public health and environmental problems (nutrient loading, odors, and exposure to pathogens), while

careful construction and siting of OWTS away from water wells, aquatic resources on other sensitive receptors greatly reduces the incidence of disease.

Legal Authorities: HSC §117400 et seq., WAT §13280 - §13286.9 (Individual Disposal Systems), WAT §14875 – §14877.3 (Greywater Systems); California Plumbing Code; HCC §611-617, §621, Humboldt County Onsite Wastewater LAMP and RTM, 7 Nov 2017.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems are properly sited and designed to prevent impacts to groundwater, surface water or public health.
- b. Ensure that septic tanks, portable toilets, and vault pumpers are disposing of waste at an approved disposal facility.
- c. Provide educational material to the general public on the proper operation and maintenance of OWTS and greywater systems.
- d. Ensure that OWTS and greywater systems will not create groundwater, public or environmental health problems.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Evaluate proposals for and permit OWTS.
- b. Investigate complaints relating to illegal or unsafe sewage disposal.
- c. Maintain records of and monitor the construction, repair, and maintenance of OWTS.
- d. Permit waste haulers and monitor records of service from permitted septage haulers, grease vault pumpers and chemical toilet service companies.
- e. Review and update local regulations related to on-site waste, as necessary.
- f. Evaluate and permit greywater and waterless disposal systems.
- g. Monitor non-standard systems and report to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as described in the Local Area Management Program.
- h. Provide educational material to the general public on the proper operation and maintenance of OWTS and greywater systems.
- i. Evaluate new technology for on-site sewage systems.
- j. Conduct sanitary surveys to evaluate the operation and maintenance of on-site systems.

- k. Implement and update the Local Area Management Program.

LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Purpose and Scope: To ensure that solid waste landfills and transfer stations are operated properly without generation of disease vectors, impacts to water quality, generation of litter and related concerns; to provide an independent Hearing Panel to hear appeals of the decisions/orders made by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA); to ensure that inactive sites are closed and maintained following closure in accordance with state law.

Protection of public health and environmental quality are of vital concern in dealing with solid waste handling and disposal problems. Education of operators and the public on sound solid waste handling and disposal practices, and promotion of voluntary compliance, are important factors in ensuring that impacts from community waste streams are held to a minimum. Enforcement of solid waste ordinances and statute, when necessary, is part of this regulatory program.

Legal Authorities: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Resolution 92-30, Integrated Waste Management Board Resolution 93-05, PRC §40000 et seq., 14 CCR §17020 et seq., HCC §521 & §523.

Objectives:

- a. Permit and inspect all solid waste disposal, transfer/processing and composting facilities, and closed landfills to ensure full compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- b. Investigate complaints related to solid waste facilities and take appropriate corrective action to ensure compliance with state and local standards.

Summary of Activities:

Carry out the mandates and responsibilities of the locally designated and certified Solid Waste LEA:

- a. Solid Waste Enforcement
 - 1. Enforce all laws and regulations pertaining to the minimum standard for solid waste handling and disposal through a routine inspection program.
 - 2. Issue permits to all solid waste facilities in each county and bring these facilities into compliance with state mandated minimum standards.

3. Provide consultation to other governmental and private agencies in matters pertaining to the enforcement of solid waste laws.
 4. Investigate complaints and take necessary action to abate illegal waste disposal sites and composting facilities.
- b. Disposal Site, Transfer/Processing Facilities and Operations
1. Maintain a current inventory of all landfill sites, transfer/processing stations and composting facilities and operations.
 2. Investigate, inspect, and evaluate active disposal sites, transfer/processing and composting facilities, and operations on a monthly basis for facilities and quarterly basis for operations and in response to complaints.
 3. Review and evaluate construction plans for new transfer, processing and composting facilities and operations, and issue applicable permits or notifications.
- c. Refuse Storage/Collection
1. Answer complaints, conduct investigations and enforce local and state container and storage standards.
 2. Maintain inventory of refuse collection facilities, equipment, and services.
- d. Solid Waste Facility Permits
1. Write and issue solid waste facility permits for landfills and other solid waste facilities.
 2. Review and comment on environmental documents prepared for landfills such as initial studies, negative declarations, environmental impact reports (EIRs), zoning and land use permits for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.
 3. Investigate permit violations by solid waste facility operators.
 4. Revise or modify solid waste facility permits as methods of operations change or as required by state regulations.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS

Program: Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Purpose and Scope: California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program (Unified Program) was created in 1993 by Senate Bill 1082. SB 1082 had provisions for local agencies, such as DEH, to apply to CalEPA to become a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) to consolidate regulatory oversight of six different programs including hazardous waste/tiered permitting, aboveground storage tanks, underground storage

tanks, business and area plans/inventory or disclosure, acutely hazardous materials/risk management prevention and Uniform Fire Code programs related to hazardous materials inventory/plan requirements. The Humboldt County CUPA has sole jurisdiction for all six CUPA program elements in all incorporated cities, districts, and the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County.

Its mission is to protect public health and safety, to restore and enhance environmental quality and to sustain economic vitality through effective and efficient implementation of the six oversight programs:

1. Aboveground storage tank program spill prevention control and countermeasure requirements (APSA)
2. Hazardous Materials Business Plan Program (HMBP) & Area Plan Program
3. California Accidental Release Prevention Program (Cal ARP)
4. Hazardous Materials Management Plans & Inventory Statement
5. Hazardous Waste Generator/Tiered Permitting Program
6. Underground Storage Tank Program (UST)

Legal Authorities: CUPA: HSC § 25404-25404.9; Title 27 CCR § 5100-15620 & Division 3, Subdivision 1- Data Dictionary (Effective July 1, 2018). APSA: HSC § 25270-25270.13. HMBP & Area Plan: HSC § 25500-25519; Title 19 CCR § 2620-2734. Cal ARP: HSC § 25531-25543.3; Title 19 CCR § 2735-2785. Hazardous Materials Management Plans and Inventory Statement: HSC § 13143-13143.9; Title 24, California Fire Code § 5001.5.1-501.5. Hazardous Waste Generator/Tiered Permitting Program: HSC § 25100-25258.2, Title 22, Division 4.5. UST: HSC § 25280-25296 & 25298-25299.6; CCR § 2610 – 2717.7.

Objectives:

- a. Consolidate the administration of CUPA programs at permitted and regulated facilities within the county of Humboldt.
- b. Prevent degradation of the environment and well-being of the public from negligent management of hazardous materials and/or incomplete anticipation and mitigation of risks associated with hazardous materials.
- c. Support emergency response agencies with basic information to prevent injury and prevent or mitigate damage to the public health and safety and environment from the release of hazardous materials.

- d. To prevent or mitigate damage to the health and safety of the public and environment due to hazardous material release.
- e. To provide information to the public on facilities storing hazardous materials in accordance with the federal and state Community Right-To-Know laws.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Investigate allegations of mismanagement of hazardous materials, or illegal disposal of hazardous waste by commercial operations.
- b. Take appropriate corrective action to ensure compliance with state and local standards up to and including taking environmental administrative enforcement actions or referrals to the appropriate enforcement agency for civil and criminal prosecution.
- c. Permit and maintain a data management system of the CUPA program in the county.
- d. Conduct routine consolidated inspections of all CUPA facilities to ensure the safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes, and verify compliance with state laws and regulations.
- e. Gather evidence, prepare reports and other documents required for enforcement and coordinate these efforts with other county and state agencies.
- f. Provide consultation and assistance to the public, industries, and community agencies regarding the regulation of hazardous materials and waste and the applicable laws and regulations.
- g. Prioritize and support a waste reduction/pollution prevention approach in management of waste and regulating generators.
- h. Conduct plan checks and inspection of all UST system construction, including installation, closure, repair, and modification to ensure compliance with required construction and monitoring standards.

Program: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program - Certified (CLPPP) Lead Inspector/Assessor

Purpose and Scope: To identify and reduce accessible sources of lead hazards that may lead to high child blood lead levels and their detrimental effects. A grant funded by CDPH, the CLPPP provides resources and a framework for implementing prevention and response strategies to reduce availability of ingestible lead and the negative, long-term impacts of elevated blood lead levels for children in our community. Implementation of the CLPPP grant requires multiple disciplines of the Public Health

Branch including Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), Public Health Nursing and Health Education Specialists. EHS staff receive specialized training and certification to provide lead Inspector-Assessor services.

Legal Authorities: HSC Ch. 6.5, various sections (hazardous waste handling, transport, and disposal); 40 CFR parts 239 through 282 (RCRA); 24 CFR, Part 35 and 40, Part 745 (HUD/USEPA disclosure); 8 CCR, §1532.1 (Cal-OSHA Construction Standards); 8 CCR §5194, 22 CCR §12601 (CA HazCom Standards); HSC §101080 (County Health Officer authority to declare of local health emergency).

Objectives:

- a. Investigate reports of lead-based paint hazards.
- b. Participate in CLPPP team by investigating and reducing all sources of household lead hazards that may lead to a high child blood lead level.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Collaborate with Public Health Nursing and Healthy Communities Division staff to ensure completion of environmental-related tasks and assessments as required in state law and cyclical grant deliverables.
- b. Collaborate with government and community organizations to deepen the capacity for lead remediation and elevate community awareness related to the health risks associated with poor lead management.
- c. Complete lead inspections and assessment in housing and non-housing contexts, in response to receiving notice of a child with elevated blood lead levels, and, in a proactive capacity to reduce environmental risks and prevent exposures.
- d. Attend local team meetings to discuss cases, outreach, and results of team investigations.
- e. Attend state training and coordination meetings to maintain certifications and technical or industry awareness.

Program: Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL)

Purpose and Scope: To reduce the availability of tobacco for youth in the community and enforce local, state, and federal tobacco laws. Recognizing that state resources may be delayed and insufficient in our rural area, a collaboration between county staff, primarily within the Public Health Branch and community partners, the TRL ordinance was proposed to the county Board of Supervisors. Approved in January 2024, the ordinance provides enforcement of the statewide flavor ban and reduces youth access to tobacco in unincorporated Humboldt County. Staff of the DEH- Hazardous Materials Unit provide the regulatory services required.

Legal Authorities: HSC Ch. 6.5, various sections (hazardous waste handling, transport and disposal); HSC Section 104559.5; CA Business & Professions Code Sections 22962.b.2; Rev. & Tax Code 30161-30165.2; 30163(a) (5)(A); CA Penal Code 308.3; 21 CFR 1140.14; [HCO 2718](#).

Objectives:

- a. Ensure all tobacco retailers in unincorporated Humboldt County have a current local tobacco retail license.
- b. Ensure that tobacco retailers follow all state, local and federal laws.
- c. Reduce youth access to tobacco from retail sales.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Administer workshops to educate tobacco retailers on laws and regulations.
- b. Process application submittals, fees, and licensing.
- c. Conduct inspections of tobacco retailers in unincorporated Humboldt County ensuring there are no violations of the TRL provisions.
- d. Observe and document the establishment's compliance with local, state, and federal laws.
- e. Respond to all applicable complaints from the community about tobacco retailers and triage as necessary.
- f. Collect evidence and document violations of the TRL ordinance.
- g. Perform progressive enforcement of the TRL ordinance up to and including administrative enforcement of fees, penalties, and license revocation.

Program: Monitoring Well and Borings

Purpose and Scope: To ensure compliance with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90, as well as Humboldt County Code Title IV, Chapter 1 (Wells). This program governs the installation and maintenance of monitoring wells, borings and other non-water supply wells. It is designed to prevent groundwater contamination, ensure proper design and installation, document well and boring details for future reference and oversee construction and sampling techniques. This program does not cover water supply wells or observation wells for wet weather testing; these are managed by the DEH Land Use Program.

Legal Authorities: California Department of Water Resources Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90, Humboldt County Code Title IV, Chapter 1 (Wells), California Water Well Standards Bulletin 74-81, Page 52

Objectives:

- a. Prevent groundwater contamination caused by contaminants moving between aquifers or from soil to an aquifer.
- b. Ensure that wells and borings are designed and installed to meet specified data objectives.
- c. Record the details of well and boring installations for future data use and proper destruction upon termination of use.
- d. Observe and verify site conditions, construction and sampling techniques during fieldwork.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Issue permits for all monitoring wells, borings, temporary well points and gas survey points, irrespective of depth or installation method. Exemptions include hand-augured borings to a maximum depth of four feet for soil textural analysis and for dewatering wells on construction sites that will be destroyed upon project completion.
- b. Enforce permit requirements, including doubling fees for work done without a permit [HCC 631-3(b)].

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Purpose and Scope: To investigate and precipitate remediation of potential public health hazards and public health nuisances associated with food supply, pools and spas, public and individual water supplies, municipal and commercial solid waste facilities, sewage, vectors, water quality, spills, abandoned wells and hazardous excavations and other matters related to environmental health programs.

Responding to citizen complaints is a core activity of DEH. DEH's primary goal is to seek compliance through educating the responsible property owners or individuals. DEH has responsibility for the oversight of a variety of commercial industries and enforcement tools provided by state authorities to motivate reluctant parties.

Some citizen complaints are a result of chronic violations of local County Codes. While compliance education efforts are often successful, if a property owner or the offending persons do not correct the problems, a referral to Code Enforcement may be necessary.

Compliance activities are most effective when coordinated with other agencies responsible for enforcement of applicable codes.

Legal Authorities: HSC §101030, HCC §381.

Objectives:

- a. Ensure protection of human health and safety by responding in a timely manner to citizen complaints.
- b. Provide citizens and community members with resources to mitigate public health concerns and nuisances.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Respond to and investigate citizen complaints of environmental health concern.
- b. Seek compliance following DEH complaint response procedure.
- c. Coordinate investigation and compliance efforts with Planning and Building, Code Enforcement and other agencies.
- d. Use available administrative enforcement provisions, articulated in state laws and regulations, to remediate violations and disincentivize future violations.
- e. Refer complaints related to violations of Humboldt County Code to the Code Enforcement Unit for abatement if DEH compliance efforts fail.

DISASTER SANITATION PLANNING

Purpose and Scope: To assist in development of predesigned plans for timely response to, and recovery from, disasters in coordination with other responding agencies. DEH's role in emergency response is to provide assistance to the Incident Commander and impacted communities. DEH fulfills this role by performing assessments of public health and safety threats during and after disasters and coordinating with local and state response agencies to identify and locate resources to mitigate or reduce public health threats.

Legal Authorities: HSC §101030, §101080, and §101310; GOV §8558 and §8630; Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Humboldt Operational Area.

Objectives:

- a. Protect life, property and the environment.
- b. Ensure resources supplied to meet immediate emergency needs of people, including safe water, waste disposal and shelter are provided without creating or exacerbating health challenges.
- c. Assist in restoring temporary facilities (sanitation, sewage disposal and water), whether publicly or privately owned, that are essential to the health, safety and welfare of people.
- d. Mitigating hazards that pose a threat to life, property and the environment.

Summary of Activities:

- a. Identify potential hazards to human health and the environment and take or recommend measures to eliminate or control the hazards. Areas of concern during an emergency include those associated with: Safe water, sewage release and disposal, disease vectors, medical waste, household hazardous waste collection/disposal, food-sanitation, housing and radiological hazards.
- b. Activation Phase
 1. Follow generic Activation Phase Checklist of the county's Emergency Operations Plan.
- c. Operational Phase
 1. Establish and maintain position logs and other necessary files.
 2. Inform the Public Health Unit Leader, if activated, or the Health/Welfare Branch Director of all significant events.
 3. Ensure that all media contacts are referred to the Public Information Officer.
 4. Coordinate with state and federal regulatory agencies.
 5. Dispatch teams to survey potable water systems and determine the status of potable water.
 6. Dispatch teams to survey sewage and wastewater treatment systems.
 7. Continually monitor water and sanitation systems.
 8. Develop a transportation and distribution strategy for potable water.
 9. Through the Logistics Section, obtain chemical (portable toilets) and other temporary facilities for the disposal of human waste and other infected waste.
 10. Coordinate the inspection of foodstuffs, drugs and other consumables for purity and usability.

11. Dispatch teams to inspect and advise emergency shelters concerning food handling, potable water supplies, waste disposal, sewage disposal and other environmental health issues (refer to section 6-1 of the Disaster Field Manual).
 12. Determine if hazardous material releases have occurred.
 - a. Ensure proper notifications have been made (refer to the Humboldt County Area Plan for hazardous materials releases).
 - b. Contact Acutely Hazardous Materials storage facilities to check for releases.
 - c. Notify public schools and community centers within ¼ mile of hazardous materials releases.
 13. Develop and implement a plan for control of disease vectors.
 14. Develop and implement a plan for solid waste management and disposal.
 15. Develop public information notices concerning treatment of water, avoiding sewage releases and safe food handling.
- d. Demobilization Phase
1. Follow the Demobilization Phase Checklist of the County's Emergency Operations Plan.