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Summary

Early in the 20th century, infections associated with overcrowding, poor housing, and contaminated water resulted in transmission of tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and dysentery. Improvements in housing, public water supplies including chlorination and filtration, and waste-disposal systems have resulted in great progress in disease control. While the impacts of these diseases have been reduced, the need for 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 disposal, proper solid waste disposal, management of hazardous materials, and emergency response will continue to present challenges. DEH’s goal is 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 e-coli 0157:H7, rabies, cyanobacteria, West Nile Virus, biological and chemical terrorism, groundwater contamination, and childhood lead poisoning, among others.

DEH Mission

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 mission, the Division of Environmental Health will:

✓ Work toward the prevention of communicable disease in the community through the identification and control of environmental conditions associated with 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.
✓ Incorporate sound environmental health principles into land use planning and development.
✓ Seek ways to improve permit processing and compliance assistance.
✓ Educate the community of 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 work place for Division staff.
Maintain and establish good working relationships with other departments, agencies, community partners, the media, and other organizations to accomplish our common goals.

**Legal Authorities**

Legal authority for environmental health programs is provided the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations.

HSC §101030 states:

The county health officer shall enforce and observe in the unincorporated territory of the county, all of the following:

a) Orders and ordinances of the board of supervisors, pertaining to public health.
b) Orders, including quarantine and other regulations, prescribed by the department.
c) Statutes relating to public health.

In addition, 17 CCR §1276, Basic Services states:

“The health department” shall offer at least the following basic services to the health jurisdiction which it serves:

(e) Environmental health and sanitation services and programs in accordance with an annual plan and program outline as required in 17 CCR §1328, and approved by the State Department of Health and the applicable services and program standards as specified in the State Department of Health “Services in a Local Environmental Health and Sanitation Program,” September 1976. The required services and programs shall be as follows:

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

17 CCR §1308 states:

A director of Environmental Health shall hold 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 (a Master's
Degree in Public Health, Health Science, Public Administration, or related field may be substituted for one year of the required experience).

**Definition of Environmental Health**

The State/Local Task Force on Environmental Health defines Environmental Health as:

> _Those organized activities undertaken to protect and enhance the public’s health through the control of potentially harmful materials, organisms, energies, and conditions in the environment. The term “health” is used in its broadest context to mean not just the absence of disease, but rather a complete state of physical, mental, and social well being._

Based on this definition, it is clear that the two major aspects in an environmental health program are the prevention of disease and the protection and promotion of public well being.

The prevention aspect 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 served and provided to the public, and in the routine collection and analysis of bacteriological and chemical water samples from drinking water supplies for the detection of potential contamination. This activity is designed to detect and prevent enteric water-borne diseases and to identify unsafe water. The protection and promotion of public wellbeing is also exemplified by environmental health activities which contain hazardous elements and to control nuisances which interfere with the comfort and enjoyment of the environment by all who live in, or visit, Humboldt County.

As used in this program plan, the term program is defined as “an organized response to reduce or eliminate one or more community environmental health problem(s).” As this definition encompasses a broad range of activities, it is necessary to designate program categories in order to avoid extremes and provide uniformity. Thus, the categories list in 17 CCR §1276(e) and §1371 are to be utilized in developing program plans. A program, as distinguished from an assortment of activities, exists only as a result of a formal planning process, including the following steps: (1) defining the purpose, (2) identifying responsibility and legal authority, (3) specifying quantitative objectives, (4) listing program activities and implementation plans necessary to achieve stated objectives, (5) listing program activities and implementation plans necessary to achieve stated objectives and (6) identifying the general philosophy/policy issues. The program plan guidelines described herein are derived from the procedural approach.

**Format of the Program:** Each program has the following sections:

1. Purpose
2. Legal Authority
3. Objectives
4. Activities
5. Philosophy/Policy Issues
Environmental Health Program Summary

The Division of Environmental Health’s (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: Food Program (Retail Establishments)

Purpose: To prevent the outbreak of food borne illness; to ensure that food provided for human consumption is free of adulteration, is wholesome and safe to eat; to accomplish this in a manner uniform with programs of other jurisdictions in the State; and to protect the health of the food worker by encouraging safe and sanitary working conditions.

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 food borne illnesses originating from retail food facilities in Humboldt County.
b. Perform timely, thorough risk-based inspections of retail food facilities.
c. Respond to suspected food borne outbreaks within 24 hours.

c. Respond to suspected food borne outbreaks within 24 hours.

Summary of Activities:

a. Evaluate, measure, and improve the level of environmental health conditions in all food facilities.
b. Conduct routine 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 hearing’s so when education and inspection efforts fail to achieve desired results.
d. Investigate and take corrective action on citizen reports of food borne illness outbreaks, unsanitary conditions in food facilities within 24 hours. Food borne illness outbreaks may require coordination with Public Health Communicable Disease Nursing and Epidemiology staff.
e. Complete review of food facility plans to ensure proper construction and compliance with Cal Code.

Philosophy/Policy Issues

Environmental Health’s approach in this program is primarily one of prevention and education. This is far preferable to action taken after a food borne illness outbreak or other adverse incident has occurred. Therefore, emphasis is placed on education and illness prevention during routine inspections to identify and correct deficiencies that could result in harm to the consumer. When food establishment operators fail to cooperate and violate the provisions of the law, enforcement action may be required to achieve compliance.
Program: Organized Camps and Detention Facilities

Purpose: To ensure that organized camps and detention facilities (“jails”) provide a safe and suitable environment, including safe water supply, proper sewage disposal, and safe and wholesome food preparation.

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:
- a. To perform annual inspections of detention facilities to obtain compliance with the law, in coordination with Public Health Nursing.
- b. To perform semi-annual inspections of each year-round organized camp and annually of seasonal camps to obtain 100% compliance with the law.
- c. To respond to all citizen complaints concerning detention facilities, and organized camps within five business days and to obtain compliance with applicable laws.

Summary of Activities:
- a. Detention Facilities
  1. Inspect each county and city detention facility on an annual basis and report findings to the responsible city or county official and to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
  2. Investigate all complaints of detention facilities regarding sanitation, maintenance, use or occupancy.
  3. Coordinate an inspection team with public health staff for the inspection of all county detention facilities.
- b. Organized Camps
  1. Inspect organized camps on an annual, or semi-annual basis to ensure compliance with State Law.

Philosophy/Policy Issues
Environmental Health’s approach to Organized Camps and Detention Facilities is primarily one of illness prevention and education during routine inspections to identify and correct deficiencies that could result in harm to campers or inmates. When a significant violation is identified, such as poor drinking water quality results which may be unsafe to campers, immediate closure may be required until corrections can be made.
Program: Swimming Pools and Spas

**Purpose:** To ensure safe and sanitary public swimming pools and spas.

**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.

**Objective:**
- a. Ensure the safety of public pools and spas.
- b. Ensure that public pools and spas are constructed and maintained in an appropriate manner.

**Summary of Activities:**
- a. Conduct routine inspections of all public swimming pools and spas on an annual basis.
- 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.

**Philosophy/Policy Issues**
Environmental Health has the responsibility to ensure public pools and spas are constructed and maintained in a safe and healthful manner. The swimming pool inspection program is based upon a preventative philosophy that relies to a large extent on persuasion and education through routine inspections and response to citizen complaints. In order to maintain a safe environment, and to prevent the spread of disease in the public pools and spas, an effective 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.

Program: Recreational Health – Public Beaches

**Purpose:** To ensure that all public recreational waters are monitored for potentially hazardous bacterial and chemical contamination and safety hazards which may adversely affect their beneficial uses, such as swimming or fishing.

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

**Objectives:**
- a. Post all water-contact recreational areas contaminated by spillage of sewage or chemicals.
- c. Monitor recreational waters for water quality and safety concerns.
- d. Identify sources of contamination of recreational waters and eliminate those caused by human activity.
Summary of Activities:

a. Implement ocean beach water quality monitoring as required by State contract.
b. Post public beaches in response to contamination incidents.
c. Conduct follow-up monitoring/sampling, as necessary.
d. Annually notify public of cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms, and test and post as needed.
e. Annually notify public of swimmers itch hazard via media.
f. Provide consultation and assistance to operators of water recreational areas and to the public regarding water quality requirements and conditions.

Philosophy/Policy Issues: DEH uses a preventative approach to ensuring recreational water safety. Emphasis is placed on public education and surveillance of water quality concerns. While large county jurisdictions perform year-round water quality testing of public beaches, Humboldt County has neither the scale of public exposure nor the funds to conduct year-round monitoring. In addition, while Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms have human health implications, DEH has taken the role of notifying the public and posting river beaches in response to threats to recreational waters, the public, and pets.

Program: State Small Public Water Systems

Purpose: To regulate State Small Water Systems to ensure potable water is provided to the public. State Small Water Systems are defined as having between 5-14 service connections and not regularly serving more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days in a year. The State Small Water System Program is a state mandated program.

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

Objectives:

a. Inspect, evaluate, and maintain public health protection of all state small public water systems, verify permits, acceptable monitoring programs, and comply with state standards.
b. Review bacteriological and chemical samples at small public water systems on a routine basis.
c. Identify potential public health threats by conducting studies, as requested or as needed by the occurrence of domestic water quality problems.
d. Respond to all consumer health or nuisance complaints with investigation and sampling, as needed.

Summary of Activities:

a. Conduct complete 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.

Philosophy/Policy
A preventive approach in the State Small Water System Program ensures that people will not be exposed to health or safety hazards associated with poor water quality. Emphasis is placed on planned systematic monitoring and inspections to seek out and correct sources of contamination or unsafe conditions before they result in illness or injury. Also, review of new projects to conform to health and safety criteria, review of plans of proposed facilities, and inspections during construction will ensure that the design will facilitate safe and sanitary operations. Corrective and enforcement measures may be taken, as needed.

Program: Vector Control

Purpose: To protect the public from the health hazards associated with disease transmitting nuisance animals and arthropods.

Legal Authorities: HSC §116125-§116170 (Rodents), HSC §121690, 17 CCR §2606 (Rabies), HSC 105200 (Pesticide Poisoning).

Objectives:

a. Surveillance and surveys of vectors and vector-borne diseases to evaluate community vector control needs.
b. Emergency vector/pest control through private or public agency participation.
c. Vector prevention guidelines through environmental planning process.
d. Maintain program records to evaluate procedures and measure effectiveness of program.
e. Educate public and staff in vector/pest control principles to obtain maximum participation in solution of local vector problems.

Summary of Activities:

a. Reduction of rodent food and harborage through public education.
b. Public education and monitoring for tick-borne Lyme disease, carried by the Pacific black-legged tick.
c. Public education and monitoring for rabies, primarily in skunks, foxes, and bats.
e. Respond to citizen complaints of vector/pest infestations.
Philosophy/Policy
This program is designed to monitor and control animals that can carry disease, cause economic damage, or become nuisances. This includes, but is not limited to, rats, mice, skunks, mosquitoes, flies, ticks, cockroaches, and wasps. Community pest and vector control is the joint responsibility of local public agencies, including environmental health jurisdictions, mosquito and vector control districts, the agricultural commissioner’s office, and the pest control industry. In many cases, the best method of public health protection is prevention and public education.

Program: Body Art

Purpose: To ensure the application of proper body art procedures and the control of cross-contamination of instruments and supplies to protect both the body art practitioner and client from transmission of infectious diseases.

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

Objective:
- a. Ensure the safety of body art facilities through the use of timely and consistent routine inspections.
- b. Ensure that body art facilities are constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with the CA Safe Body Art Act.
- c. To rapidly respond to complaints of unsanitary body art facilities and practitioners.

Summary of Activities:
- a. Conduct annual inspections of all body art facilities.
- 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 CA Safe Body Art Act.
- d. Evaluate new equipment proposed for use in body art facilities.

Philosophy/Policy Issues
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 preventative philosophy that relies on cooperation and education through routine inspections and response to citizen complaints. In order to maintain a safe environment and to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases in a body art facility, an effective surveillance program is essential. 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 have been made.

LAND USE PROGRAMS

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

Purpose: To ensure that proposed developments and businesses within Humboldt County comply with applicable State and local laws within DEH jurisdiction. In coordination with other
DEH programs, the Land Use team evaluates development proposals with the goal of protecting or minimizing impacts to human health and the environment.

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

**Objectives:**

a. Ensure 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.
b. Verify that land development projects include adequate public or private sewage treatment and disposal facilities to maintain water quality and environmental health standards.
c. Verify that water supplies proposed for all new subdivisions are adequate.
d. Ensure that onsite wastewater disposal for all proposed land developments comply with DEH regulations.
e. Ensure that Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) consider pertinent adverse public health and environmental impacts, and propose adequate mitigating measures.
f. Review Conditional Use Permits, Zone Changes, and general Plan Amendments to identify and make recommendations on elements which have the potential to create environmental hazards.

**Summary of Activities:**

a. Review proposed tentative tract maps, parcel maps, zone changes, use permit, general plan, amendments, and business license applications; evaluate potential adverse public health and environmental effects; prepare reports of evaluations and mitigating measures.
b. Conduct site investigations of the above-mentioned projects to evaluate public health and environmental effects.
c. Review utility plans of onsite wastewater disposal systems proposed for new projects to ascertain feasibility and compliance with DEH regulations.
d. Review environmental impact reports of proposed projects to ensure adequate consideration has been given to public health and environmental impacts.

**Philosophy/Policy**

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. Therefore, it is essential that there be environmental health participation and input during the processing of such projects by the county and cities.

**Program: Water Wells: Construction /Abandonment**

**Purpose:** To ensure that water wells are properly located and constructed with annular seals to protect the quality of groundwater resources.

**Legal Authorities:** DWR Bulletin 74-81 & 74-90 (Water Well Standards); WAT §13700 - §13806; HSC §25299.97; HCC §631.
Objectives:
a. Ensure that all wells are constructed and destroyed by permit and according to State and local standards.
b. Permit properly constructed wells.
c. Provide consultation, assistance, and education to well drillers, contractors, consultants, operators, and cities with regard to regulatory requirements for well construction and destruction.

Summary of Activities:
a. Review applications and 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. Consult with community members regarding domestic, irrigation or other wells relating to water quality suspected illnesses or other health concerns.
d. Investigate reports of abandoned wells and ensure destruction or re-construction.

Philosophy/Policy
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. The Well Ordinance requires any well construction or destruction to be done under permit issued by the Health Officer and in conformance with State Well Standards and such other conditions as the Health Officer may impose. Well permits are reviewed, issued, and precipitate an inspection. Each of these wells is a potential threat to groundwater and public safety if not properly constructed or destroyed. The Jessica McClure incident highlighted the hazard to public safety posed by improperly abandoned wells (in 1987, a two-year-old fell into a well that was 8-inches in diameter and 60-feet deep).

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

Purpose: To protect the health of the public and the environment from the improper disposal of sewage from on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) and greywater systems. This is accomplished through development and enforcement of local ordinance and regulations for the permitting of OWTS, greywater systems, and waste haulers to ensure compliance with State and local laws.

Legal Authorities: HSC §117400 et seq., WAT §13280 - §13286.9 (Individual Disposal Systems), WAT §14875 – §14877.3 (Graywater 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 waters and the public.
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.
d. Ensure 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 onsite waste, as necessary.

f. Evaluate and permit greywater 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. Develop educational pamphlets on the proper use and maintenance of OWTS.

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.

**Philosophy/Policy Issues**

The Liquid Waste Program is an integral part of an Environmental Health Program. Through adequate testing and careful planning, effective design, and use of onsite 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 wells away from potential sources of contamination can greatly reduce the incidence of disease.

**LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

**Purpose:** To ensure that solid waste landfills and transfer stations are operated properly in regard to vector control, water quality protection, litter prevention, 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 properly closed and maintained following closure.

**Legal Authorities:** 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 solid waste complaints and take appropriate corrective action to ensure compliance with state and local standards.

c. Ensure compliance with state and local standards for refuse collection.

**Summary of Activities:**

a. Solid Waste Enforcement

1. Carry out the mandates and responsibilities of the County Solid Waste LEA.
2. Enforce all laws and regulations pertaining to the minimum standard for solid waste handling and disposal through a routine inspection program.
3. Issue permits to all solid waste facilities in each county and bring these facilities into compliance with state mandated minimum standards.
4. Provide consultation to other governmental and private agencies in matters pertaining to the enforcement of solid waste laws.
5. Investigate complaints of illegal dumping and take necessary action to abate illegal waste 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. Answer complaints and conduct investigations pertaining to inadequate frequency of collection or improper storage.
   3. Maintain inventory of refuse collection facilities, equipment, and services.
   4. Ensure compliance with local regulations.

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, 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.

Philosophy/Policy Issues
Protection of public health and environmental quality are of vital concern in dealing with solid waste handling/disposal problems. Education of operators and the public on sound solid waste handling and disposal practices, and promotion of voluntary compliance, are goals. Enforcement of solid waste ordinances and statute, when necessary, is part of this regulatory program.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS

Program: Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Purpose: Under Senate Bill 1082, the CUPA consolidates, coordinates, and makes consistent the regulatory activities of several hazardous materials and hazardous waste programs through implementation at the local level. As of January, 2018, 81 local agencies are certified as Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs). The implemented programs are as follows:

1. Hazardous waste generator and hazardous waste on-site treatment program.
2. Aboveground storage tank program spill prevention control and countermeasure requirements.
3. Underground storage tank program.
5. California accidental release prevention program.
6. Hazardous materials management plans and hazardous materials inventory statement.

Legal Authorities: CA HSC Ch. 6.5, various sections (Hazardous waste handling, transport and disposal); CA HSC Ch 6.7 (Underground storage of hazardous substances); CA HSC Ch. 6.95 (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory); CA HSC Ch. 6.67 (Aboveground storage of petroleum); HSC §101080 (Health Officer authority to declare a local health emergency); CA HSC Div. 20, Ch. 6.6 (Proposition 65, Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986); Ch 6.11, Sec. 25200 et seq.; 25404 et seq.; CA HSC Div. 20, Ch. 6.75; CCR, Title 22, Div. 4.5, Ch. 10, Art.2 (Secondary containment for tanks); CCR, Title 22, 66265, 67450; Title 19, Div 2, Ch. 4.5, Art. 3, 2765, 2775 et seq., HCC §384, (Unified Program Consolidated Compliance Checklist, Dec. 1997), HCC §561.

Objectives:

a. Hazardous Waste Generator and Hazardous Waste On-site Treatment Program
   1. Inspect, evaluate and maintain an adequate surveillance of hazardous waste generators in order to ensure full compliance with laws and regulations for the handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes.
   2. Investigate complaints and take enforcement action, as necessary, against violators of hazardous waste laws and regulations.
   3. Educate county industries and the public on the legal requirements for handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

b. Aboveground storage tank program Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements.
   1. Inspect all aboveground storage tank facilities to ensure that SPCC requirements are met.

c. Underground Storage Tank Program
   1. To approve plans and issue permits for new underground storage tank installation, modification, repair, and closure of underground storage tank systems.
   2. To routinely inspect all underground storage tank facilities in order to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of underground storage tanks.
   3. To investigate all complaints pertaining to leaking underground storage tanks.
4. To pursue enforcement action against any person who violates the laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of underground storage tanks.
5. To provide consultation, assistance, and education to industries and the public with regard to the regulatory requirements for installing and operating underground storage tank systems.

d. Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory (*Business Plan*)
   1. Maintain an accurate inventory of hazardous materials stored at every regulated facility, and ensure that the state’s CERS database is updated annually.
   2. Ensure that the emergency response plan at each facility is effective and up-to-date.
   3. Ensure that the site diagram is current and routinely shared with fire districts.
   4. Update the Humboldt County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (Area Plan) every three years, share it with other response agencies, and test it with a full-scale, multi-agency exercise.
5. Obtain approval of the Area Plan from the Board of Supervisors.

e. California Accidental Release Prevention Program.
   1. Complete the review and public notification requirements for the Risk Management Plan for each facility meeting or exceeding state or federal threshold limits of extremely hazardous materials.

   1. Ensure that each hazardous materials facility operator maintains a hazardous materials inventory statement that is coordinated with a scale plan showing storage areas and controls.

**Summary of Activities:**

a. Hazardous Waste Generators and On-Site Treatment Facilities
   1. Conduct routine inspections of all hazardous waste generating and on-site treatment facilities to ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste and compliance with state laws and regulations.
   2. Investigate complaints regarding improper or illegal handling/disposal/treatment of hazardous waste.
   3. Gather evidence, prepare reports and other documents required for enforcement; coordinate these efforts with other county and state agencies.
   4. Provide consultation and assistance to the public, industries, and other agencies regarding the regulation of hazardous waste and the applicable laws and regulations.
   5. Maintain a data management system for hazardous waste generators. The system should contain complete information on hazardous waste generators, including name, address, waste generated, volumes, storage and disposal methods, etc.
   6. Utilize a waste reduction/pollution prevention approach in regulating generators.

b. Aboveground Storage Tank Program Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements. Check every CUPA regulated facility with aboveground storage tanks at least once every three years to ensure that SPCC is certified and current.

c. Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)
   1. 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.
2. Conduct annual routine inspections to ensure compliance with the permit and monitoring requirements.
3. Respond to emergency situations and investigate complaints pertaining to UST leaks or failures.
4. Identify and bring into compliance previously unknown USTs, and maintain a comprehensive data base of information regarding tanks identified, including age, size, material stored, history of repairs and leaks, etc.
5. Pursue compliance and conduct enforcement action against the UST owner/operator violators of UST laws and regulations. Gather evidence, prepare reports and other documents required for enforcement.
6. Provide consultation and assistance to the public, industries, and other agencies regarding the UST laws and regulations.
7. Provide workshops to inform industry about UST requirements.
8. Maintain computerized inventory of USTs and associated data including permit information, inspection results, tank closures, and unauthorized releases.
9. Provide to the State Water Resources Control Board information on permits, tank violations, and unauthorized releases pursuant to State law.

Philosophy/Policy

In 1996, the state law required local jurisdictions to regulate hazardous materials in a coordinated and non-redundant way. The law established the formation of Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) to regulate cities and/or counties. 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. Although the CUPA regulations were primarily intended to solve jurisdictional problems in the large urbanized areas of the state, DEH was able to easily adapt the concept to work in Humboldt County. Statewide, the Humboldt County CUPA is considered to be a leader among rural jurisdictions.

Program: Lead in Housing

Purpose:
To identify and reduce sources of household lead hazards that may lead to high child blood lead levels and their detrimental effects.

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:
1. Investigate reports of lead-based paint hazards.
2. Participate in Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (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. Participate in investigations referred from the CDPH’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch to determine environmental factors contributing to an identified case of childhood lead poisoning.
b. Attend quarterly team meetings to discuss cases, outreach and results of team investigations.
c. Educate affected communities and populations as to the hazards of lead exposure.

Philosophy/Policy

The CLPPP was initiated to provide resources for our rural community. State resources may be delayed and insufficient in our area. By bringing together environmental, nursing and education specialists, our community is able to expedite more attentive case management for children affected by lead.

Program: Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)

Purpose: In the event of a significant oil spill, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) ensures a unified and coordinated response between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Humboldt Operational Area through mutual aid and the coordinated and informed representation within the Incident Command System (ICS), as regulated by the Standardized Emergency System (SEMS).

Legal Authorities: Memorandum of Understanding, relating to Oil Spill Incident Command and Management between the State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, and the Humboldt Operational Area and County of Humboldt; 14 CCR §852.60.4(d) and GOV §8574.7(b); Humboldt County Operational Area Oil Spill Contingency Plan Element.

Objectives:

a. Continue to participate in updating the Coast Guard’s Area Contingency Plan (ACP) and update the approved Local Contingency Plan ensuring consistency between the Federal, State, and Local Contingency Plans.
b. Participate in training, exercises, drills, and other planning activities.
c. Update and revise the existing Humboldt Local Government Oil Spill Contingency Plan on file with CDFW using the new information developed through the area planning process.
d. Take part in the federal area planning process as a condition for participation in the unified command, in the event of a significant spill.

Summary of Activities:

a. Enter into and maintain a memorandum of understanding with OSPR.
b. Provide use of the County’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for use in the initial stages of a response, or as needed.
c. Provide a senior employee of the Public Health Branch to act as the OSPR Incident Commanders “Deputy Incident Commander, Local Government” (DIC/LG) and act as the Local Government Representative (LGR).
d. Provide a county emergency manager to act as Liaison Officer, in conjunction with the OSPR Liaison Officer, between the Unified Command (or Incident Command) and local government entities (county and city agencies, and special districts), as needed.
e. Provide County environmental health personnel to staff positions in the Unified/Incident Command in those sections requiring local knowledge, expertise, or jurisdictions, or those functions requiring a unique local operational capability.
f. Facilitate obtaining permits through local and regional agencies as required during spill response, recovery, and restoration phases.

Philosophy/Policy Issues
Oil spills pose a serious threat to public and environmental health. In 1999, Humboldt County suffered tremendous losses to marine life and birds when the vessel Stuyvesent spilled 2,000 gallons of oil at the mouth of Humboldt Bay. Prevention and an organized, unified response plan are instrumental in reducing losses. This program outlines the chain of command, specific responsibilities, and expectations for cooperation between federal, state and county agencies.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

Purpose: To investigate and abate potential public health hazards and public nuisances associated with: food supply; pools and spas; public and individual water supplies; solid waste; sewage; vectors; water quality; spills; abandoned wells and hazardous excavations; and other matters related to environmental health programs.

Legal Authorities: HSC §101030, HCC §381.

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

Summary of Activities
1. Respond to and investigate citizen complaints of environmental health concern.
2. Seek compliance following DEH complaint response procedure.
3. Coordinate investigation and compliance efforts with Planning and Building, Code Enforcement and other agencies.
4. Refer complaints to the Code Enforcement for abatement, if compliance efforts fail.

Philosophy/Policy:
Responding to citizen complaints is one of the core activities of the DEH. DEH’s primary goal is to seek compliance through educating the responsible property owners or individuals. Many citizen complaints are a result of chronic violations of several Planning, Building, and Environmental Health County Codes at a single site or residence. Compliance activities are most effective when coordinating with other agencies responsible for enforcement of these codes. While compliance efforts are often successful, if a property owner or the offending persons do not correct the problems, a referral to the Code Enforcement (CE) may be necessary.
DISASTER SANITATION PLANNING

Purpose: To provide a pre-designed plan for quick response to disasters in coordination with other responding agencies.

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

Objectives:
- Protecting life, property, and the environment.
- Meet the immediate emergency needs of people, including safe water, waste disposal, and shelter.
- Temporarily restoring facilities (sanitation, sewage disposal, and water), whether publicly or privately owned, that are essential to the health, safely, and welfare of people.
- Mitigating hazards that pose a threat to life, property, and the environment.

Summary of Activities:
- 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.
- Activation Phase
- 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. Continuously 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 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: Follow the Demobilization Phase Checklist of the County’s Emergency Operations Plan.

**Philosophy/Policy:**
DEH’s role in emergency response is to provide assistance to the Incident Commander and the impacted communities. DEH fulfills this role by performing assessments of public health and safety threats during and after disasters, and locating resources to mitigate or reduce the continuing public health threats.
Matrix of State Mandated and Optional Environmental Health Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>State Mandated</th>
<th>Optional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Retail Food Facilities</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Sherman Food Act</td>
<td></td>
<td>X^1</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Water Vending</td>
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<td>X^1</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Milk Products</td>
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<td>X^2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Housing and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Substandard Housing</td>
<td>X (in absence of Housing Dept.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Hotel/Motel</td>
<td>X (in absence of Housing Dept.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Jails/Detention Facilities</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Organized Camps</td>
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<td>e) Mobilehome Parks</td>
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<td>3. Recreational Health</td>
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<td>a) Lakes, Streams, Beaches</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>b) Public Pools/Spas</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>c) Pool/Spa Plan Check</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>4. Water Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Small Public Water Systems &lt;200 Connections</td>
<td>X^4</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) State Small water Systems</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Private Wells</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Cross-Connection Program</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>5. Land Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) CEQA Review of Land Use Permits</td>
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<td>6. Liquid Waste</td>
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<td>a) On-site sewage systems</td>
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<td>b) Septage Haulers</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>c) Greywater Systems</td>
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<td>7. Solid Waste (LEA)</td>
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<td>8. Hazardous Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) CUPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Proposition 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Emergency Response</td>
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<td>9. Medical Waste</td>
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<td>10. Underground Tank Clean-Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Vector Control</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. State Food and Drug
2. State Food and Agriculture
3. State Code and Standards
4. State Office of Drinking Water
5. CalRecycle
6. California Department of Public Health
7. Regional Water Quality Control Board
8. Local Fire Agency
9. Department of Toxic Substances Control
10. Office of Emergency Services