



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 22, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Joseph Allen
Bob Barrios
Barbara Bradley
Lee Cantrell
Zohir Chowdhury
Cliff Hanna
David Kellum
Robert Logan
Doug Roff
Byron Simpson
Malcolm Vinje
Mike Vizzier
Stephen Zolezzi

Members Excused

Ruth Heifetz

Members Unexcused

Others Present

Ana Becker, DEH
Heather Buonomo, DEH
John-Ross Glueck, DEH
Amy Harbert, DEH
Rebecca Lafreniere, DEH
Kameisha Nichols, DEH
Sande Pence, DEH
Lars Seifert, DEH
Linda Turkatte, DEH

I. CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m., with thirteen members present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 26, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

IV. Rapid PCR Beach Water Testing – An Epic Wave

Lars Seifert, Land and Water Quality Division Chief

V. UPDATES FROM DEH EXECUTIVE OFFICE (AMY HARBERT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)

Summary of DEH's efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- We have limited staff working in the office and are teleworking as much as possible. We saved approx. 40,000 miles in March.
- Text COSD COVID19 to 468-311 to get text alert updates. Tune into your local cable provider or County social media channels to view the daily County Press Conference at 2:30 PM.
 - Cox Communications, South County – Ch. 24
 - Cox Communications, North County – Ch. 19
 - Spectrum – Ch. 24 or 85 or NBC 7 San Diego
- On March 17th we activated a Food and Housing Division (FHD) Divisional Operations Center where inspectors began to verify compliance with the amended Order of the Health Officer, which prohibited on-site dining at restaurants but allowed to-go and delivery service.
- Our FHD and Public Health Services are working on contact tracing and investigations and sanitation protocols where there have been ill food handlers.
- We have a DEH team member seated in the Emergency Operation Center as an Environmental Health Representative.

- Activated the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Annex E.
- We have determined our essential and non-essential workers.
- Transitioned to virtual office beginning on March 20th, we closed our public lobby spaces and moved to virtual business processes.
- Routine inspections of non-essential businesses ceased, and we've been focusing on other one-time projects, operator follow up, paperwork and scanning.
- Staff have sent out GovDelivery messages and emails, and posted to Facebook and Twitter, to engage and educate our stakeholders and the public. Over 175 messages have been sent since the beginning of March that reached more than 613,500 recipients (note: these are not unique recipients and people may be counted more than once).
- We've created various guidance documents and had them translated into multiple (up to nine) languages, including guidance on:
 - General disinfection
 - Food facility sanitation
 - Safe food delivery for restaurants
 - Safe food delivery for third-party food deliverers
 - Grocery/market operating guidance
 - Farmers market operating guidance
- On March 24th, the Board of Supervisors took action to defer permit fees for COVID-19 impacted food facilities through August 30th and will help the department if it is needed.

DEH Announcements – Future Name Change & Re-organization

- Internally within our department, we have identified an opportunity to rename our department to better reflect our broad spectrum of programs that protect public health, the environment, and provide public safety. As part of the Fiscal Year 2020-22 operational plan (budget) to be considered by the Board of Supervisors, we will be proposing to rename our department to be called Environmental Quality.
- With this, we have an opportunity to reorganize internal functions within the department to better distinguish and synergize our state mandated health officer programs. State law requires that the health officer programs are administered by a Director of Environmental Health; therefore, a Director of Environmental Health will be appointed to oversee these specific programs. The Director of Environmental Health will report to the Environmental Quality department head. The department will still have two other executive manager positions as part of the executive office to oversee programmatic and support functions. We will be re-organizing existing positions; no new positions will be added in conjunction with this.
- **Board Letter Log**
Board Letter Log was distributed and reviewed.
- **Vacancies**
DEH has a 11% vacancy rate. During this time of economic uncertainty and downturn, we will have a higher rate of vacant positions.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.