



Department of Public Works

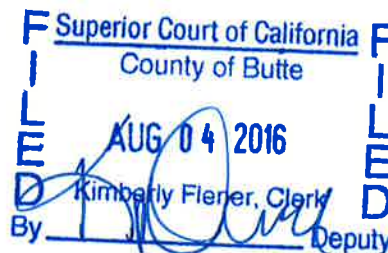
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August 2, 2016



The Honorable Robert A. Glusman, Presiding Judge
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965

Re: 2015/2016 Grand Jury Response

Dear Honorable Judge Glusman:

Below please find responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations as they pertain to the County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program and status of the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility's Septage Ponds.

FINDINGS:

F1. (DPW) *Waste storage containers and bays are in good condition and are labeled correctly with appropriate hazard indication warnings. The labels are visible and readable.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2. (DPW) *RBCC in Oroville does not accept pharmaceuticals.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Note: HHW facilities can accept non-controlled pharmaceuticals. None of the HHW facilities are allowed to accept Class 1 and 2 pharmaceuticals (controlled substances)

F3. (DPW) *HAZWOPER training satisfies OSHA requirements.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F4. (DPW) *Staff at all facilities is friendly, helpful, and seems eager to educate the community regarding HHW disposal.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F5. (DPW) *All the facilities are required by CUPA to be inspected by Butte County Environmental Health. The Grand Jury reviewed current facility inspection certificates and found them in compliance.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F6. (DPW, BRHHWF) *At all three facilities, personnel estimate that only around 15% of available HHW in Butte County is being brought in to their HHW sites by the community.*

The respondent agrees a low percentage of total HHW is brought to HHW sites.

Note: However, this does not mean that it is ending up in the landfill. The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility has a robust load checking program. All customers are asked if they have any prohibited waste in their load, including HHW. Scale attendants inspect loads if the customer indicate they do not know. Facility staff also conducts random physical load checks at the unloading area. Minimal HHW is found during load checks conducted at the facility.

F7. (DPW, BRHHWF) *Considering F6, the Grand Jury finds there is a need for more public education to make Butte County residents aware of opportunities to reduce HHW entering the Neal Road landfill and preserve the environment.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F8. (DPW) *RBCC in Oroville has a website but it can be improved to provide more specifics as to the services offered. RBCC also does not provide information to the community via local media advertising.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Note: Department does not have authority over content of RBCC's website, nor local media advertising requirements. However, department staff is working with RBCC to increase outreach efforts. In a recent quarterly newsletter to its

residential customers, RBCC included information for their HHW facility, including days and hours the facility is open and what materials could be accepted there.

F9. (DPW) *NRWS in Paradise is to be commended for its very informative and user-friendly website which contains all the information the public needs to use its facility. It also advertises widely on TV to make its presence and services known.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F10. (DPW, NRRWF) *Resolving the issue regarding the septage ponds at the Neal Road landfill needs the involvement of the community and the Board of Supervisors. This matter remains a critical issue and a timely resolution is necessary before Butte County residents are adversely affected with higher costs for hauling to another location.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F11. (DPW, BRHHWF) *At present all three facilities have limited days and hours of operation available to the public to turn in HHW.*

The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. (DPW, BRHHWF) *All HHW facilities should look for ways to increase both days and hours they are open to the public to try to increase proper disposal of HHW.*

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. The County contracts with NRC, Inc., to operate the Butte County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility (County HHW Program) in Chico. The HHW facility is open to residential customers one and one-half days per week, including Saturday, and open to commercial customers four hours per week. The County's contractor states they have capacity to service more customers during the hours they are currently open. The Department will evaluate as part of future contract discussions.

The HHW facilities in Paradise and Oroville are operated by companies not under contract with the County. The HHW facilities are operated under agreements between the operators and The Town of Paradise and City of Oroville. Department staff will explore opportunities with the local jurisdictions.

R2. (DPW, BRHHWF) *BRHHWF in Chico should explore ways to increase public awareness of its facility through advertisement to the community via radio, television, and newspaper.*

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Department will continue to apply for grants from CalRecycle for outreach and education during the next grant cycle. The Department will include radio, television and newspaper as part of its public awareness campaign. The Department will request an increase in its advertising budget as part of next fiscal year's proposed budget.

R3. (DPW) *RBCC in Oroville should explore a change to its city contract to accept pharmaceuticals.*

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented by the County. The recommendation is not within the County's authority.

R4. (DPW) *RBCC in Oroville should do more to make the public aware of its facility location and the services offered. RBCC should also advertise regularly via newspaper, local television, and radio.*

Response:

The recommendation has been partially implemented. RBCC provides waste and recycling collection under a franchise agreement with the County. Department staff has been working with all franchised haulers to increase outreach programs offered by the haulers, including HHW facilities. The County's agreement with RBCC, and other franchisees, does not stipulate the type of media the company is required to use. The franchisees are required to provide direct outreach to their residential and commercial customers through quarterly newsletters inserted into the customer's billing statements. In the most recent quarterly newsletters to their County customers, RBCC included information regarding their HHW facility and HHW services.

R5. (DPW, NRRWF) *The Public Works Department should continue its efforts to increase the capability of the Neal Road Landfill to continue processing septage at its site or find an alternative which will have the least economic impact on the residents of Butte County.*

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Department has been working on alternatives for several years and released a Request for Proposals in 2015 for the development of a septage receiving and processing facility at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. The Department received no responses, in part because there were no disposal options in the County for septage effluent. The Department anticipates developing a list of options for the Board of Supervisors to consider by October 2017.

R6. *The 2015-16 Grand Jury recommends that a future Grand Jury investigate the septage pond situation at the landfill to evaluate the progress being made toward a solution.*

Response:

No response required.

Sincerely,



Mike Crump
Director of Public Works

cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors