



chapter 5

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

EPA's customer service efforts in the Pacific Southwest take a big step forward in spring 2002 with the opening of our Environmental Information Center, and the startup of its toll-free number: 866-EPA-WEST.

EPA Opens Environmental Information Center

In spring 2002, EPA's Pacific Southwest office is opening its new Environmental Information Center, with a toll-free number for public inquiries: 866-EPA-WEST. The center has consolidated EPA's visitor reception area, call center, and public library. The center's staff assist callers and visitors to the San Francisco regional office, who typically include concerned citizens, students, educators, members of the regulated community and others, answering their questions and providing access to EPA's extensive environmental information resources. It's located on the 13th floor of our regional office at 75 Hawthorne St. in downtown San Francisco, within walking distance of five public transit systems: BART, Muni, AC Transit, SamTrans, and CalTrain.

EPA's Web Site

The Pacific Southwest area of the EPA Web site, www.epa.gov/region09 continues to provide the public with essential information about protection of air, water, and land in the region. Web site visitors can keep up on Superfund site cleanups, participate in public comment opportunities on important regulatory actions, learn more about recycling and waste reduction, obtain technical assistance, and find out about job openings.

Our regional home page has a new look that reflects a transformation occurring throughout EPA's Web site, including new, standard features for all EPA Web pages. The new elements significantly aid browsing, searching, and returning to relevant EPA topics. For EPA's main portal to environmental information, go to www.epa.gov. For environmental information specific to the states and territories in the Pacific Southwest, go to www.epa.gov/region09.

Environmental Education

Last year, EPA awarded 25 environmental education grants totalling \$398,418 to fund projects in California, Arizona, Hawaii, and Nevada.

Grantees included:

- Food, Land & People, for an environmental and agricultural curriculum now used by nearly 12,000 teachers nationwide, reaching more than 300,000 students annually.
- The California Coastal Commission, for "Boating Clean and Green Campaign, Phase III," to educate boaters and marina operators on pollution prevention.
- Adopt-A-Watershed, for an eight-day summer training institute for 2,400 teachers, who will reach 61,000 students in the first year.
- Northern Arizona University, to train teachers in tribal K-12 schools to do environmental monitoring involving atmosphere, remote sensing, land cover/biology, and soils.
- Hawaii Nature Center, to field test a wetland education program for third grade students at an O'ahu marsh recently purchased by the state as a bird sanctuary.
- Champions of the Truckee River (Nevada), to educate riverside communities on watershed management, water quality, quantity, flooding and habitat.

To learn about EPA's environmental education programs, go to www.epa.gov/enviroed.

Opposite page: Students from "Marine Mania" at George Washington High School on the Pacific island of Guam received an EPA award last year for protecting the marine and shore environments of Guam. The "Marine Mania" group, headed by teacher Linda Tatreau, used school outings to prevent oil spills, clean up trash, and educate others on the need to protect coral reefs. Photo by John McCarroll.

EPA People

Vicki Tshako and EPA's Pacific Islands Contact Office

Vicki Tshako has been working at EPA's Pacific Islands Contact Office (PICO) in Honolulu for over 35 years. She began working at the Honolulu office of EPA's predecessor agency, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, when it was established in 1966. In 1970, it became part of the newly-formed EPA.

In 1975, EPA's regional administrator transferred everyone in the Honolulu office to San Francisco – except Vicki, whose task was to serve as EPA's public information officer and liaison with Hawaii's state and local governments, as well as governments of far-flung Pacific islands like American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam. For the next twelve years, she was EPA's lone pair of eyes and ears in the Pacific.

As EPA's responsibilities grew in the 1970s and 1980s as a result of new environmental laws, Vicki's workload grew. So in 1987 EPA hired another Oahu resident, Dean Higuchi, to assist. Since then, Vicki and Dean have worked as a team. In recent years, PICO has also had a receptionist, Alma Elmer; two people from EPA's regional Water Division; and a visitor's cubicle for other EPA staff who come to Hawaii on brief assignments for meetings, conferences and compliance monitoring. The PICO office, in Room 5-152 of Honolulu's federal building, at 300 Ala Moana Blvd., can be reached at 808-541-2721.



The Pacific Southwest area of
EPA's Web site, at
www.epa.gov/region09.



Pacific Southwest/Region 9 Organization Chart

Office of the Regional Administrator: 415.947.8702

Regional Administrator: Wayne Nastri

Deputy RA: Laura Yoshii

Associate RA: Keith Takata

Office of Planning/Public Affairs
415.947.8700
Director: Sally Seymour

- Public Information/News Media Relations
- Strategic Planning
- Partnerships: State, Congressional Liaison
- Fostering Innovation
- Compliance Assurance Coordination

Air Division
415.947.8715
Director: Jack Broadbent

- Planning • Permits • Rule Making
- Enforcement • Technical Support
- Radiation & Compliance Assurance

Water Division
415.947.8707
Director: Alexis Strauss

- Clean Water Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Marine Sanctuaries Act
- U.S. — Mexico Border Program

Waste Management Division
415.947.8708
Director: Jeff Scott

- Pollution Prevention
- Solid Waste Program
- RCRA Permits/Corrective Action
- RCRA Inspections & Enforcement
- RCRA State Program Development
- Underground Storage Tank Program

Superfund Division
415.947.8709
Acting Director: Jane Diamond

- Site Cleanup • Brownfields • Oil Pollution
- Federal Facilities and Base Closures
- Emergency Response & Planning
- Community Involvement • Site Assessment

Office of the Regional Counsel
415.947.8705
Regional Counsel: Nancy Marvel

- Legal Counsel
- Enforcement

Cross Media Division
415.947.8704
Director: Enrique Manzanilla

- Federal Facilities Coordination
- Agricultural Initiative
- Pesticides • Toxics • MERIT Partnership

Policy and Management Division
415.947.8706
Director: Nora McGee

- Budget, Finance/Grants/Contracts
- Superfund Cost Accounting • Science Policy
- Laboratory & QA/QC • Facilities
- Information Resource Management
- Health & Safety • Human Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest/Region 9 Contacts

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415-947-8000 or
866-EPA-WEST (toll-free)

Email inquiries:
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EPA Web site:
www.epa.gov

For Pacific Southwest issues:
www.epa.gov/region09

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EPA Pacific Islands Contact Office
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EPA San Diego Border Office
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San Diego, CA 92101
619-235-4765

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Order from EPA's Environmental Information Center
at 415-947-8000, or 866-EPA-WEST (toll-free),
email r9.info@epa.gov or view and print from the Internet at
www.epa.gov/region09/annualreport

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