



Protecting Health and environmental Quality Health of Tribal
Residents from Environmental Contaminants

ANNUAL TRIBAL EPA CONFERENCE

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Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California



- Federally recognized since 1985
- Rancheria land in Amador County
- Tribe's other properties respectively in Amador County
- Area inhabited by the Native American people Miwok, Mi-Wuk, or Me-Wuk

BVR Environmental Resources Department

- Endeavors to protect and sustainably manage the cultural resources and environmental resources
- Besides protecting the human health of tribal members and all other neighboring tribes



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Vision
 - Mission is to preserve, protect and enhance ecosystems, human health and cultural resources on Tribal land for the tribe, community, and future generations through pollution prevention, restoration, community education and partnerships.



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Mission
 - Envisions a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for tribal members to dwell, work, recreate, and subsist on.
 - Cultural resources and natural resources will be protected and preserved for future generations.
 - The tribe will work as partners with Shingle Springs Rancheria, United Auburn Indian, Santa Rosa, Lone Band of Miwok Indians, and Sheep Ranch of Miwok Indians.



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Programs Implemented:
 - General Assistance Program (EPA)
 - Clean Water Act (EPA)
 - Tribal Historic Preservation Office (National Park Service Grant)
 - Bureau of reclamation



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Programs Implemented:
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (DOE) Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant – American and Reinvestment Act (ARRA);
 - Landscaping and environmental protection on the Reservation (Parks and Wildlife Service (BIA)
 - Community Services Block Grant

BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Environmental Education & Community Outreach Program
 - Strives to share a vision with the tribal community to foster a greater appreciation and understanding for cultural resources and tribal heritage amongst Indians and non-Indians alike



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Environmental Education & Community Outreach Program
 - Overall goal – “To promote, stimulate and empower Tribal citizens through productive community involvement, education, training, development of responsible citizenship, and furthering the understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources through the involvement of youth and young adults in the care and enhancement of those resources.



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Overall Objectives:
 - To disseminate technical and other related information to tribal citizens and partnering tribes
 - *Knowledge is power:* education and access to information will allow people to explore their potential and also enhance opportunities for tribal members to participate in environmental programs



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Overall Objectives:
 - Major changes can only take place through changing people's behavior and people can only change if they are informed about options available.
 - Enhancing opportunities for citizen-participation in environmental programs



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Overall Objectives:
 - Learn about those aspects of the human health and disease that are determined by factors in the environment and how they and their families can lower the risks to their health from environmental hazards (reducing exposures to pesticides; toxic substances; second hand smoke etc).



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Overall Objectives:
 - Establish viable and lasting partnerships with community organizations; state; Federal and local agencies already serving in Amador and Sacramento County to increase public awareness. (BIA, EPA; Sac State, Fresno State, USDA-NRCS, Bureau of Reclamation, USFWS, IHS) s in order to increase public awareness



BVR Environmental Resource Department

- Overall Objectives:
 - Social Networking and forum for social exchange for tribes
 - Put Buena Vista Rancheria on the map



Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention



- Objectives Relevant for the Native American Tribes:
 - in Sacramento County there were 53,989 pre-1950 housing units and 5,910 number of children were tested (4.9%) total number confirmed cases 70; percent of children with elevated blood lead levels 1.18%
 - Based on CBLS County –level Summary Data for CA, 2007

Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention



- Objectives Relevant for the Native American Tribes:
 - in Amador County there were 2,196 pre-1950 housing units and 18 number of children were tested (6.3%) total number confirmed cases 0; percent of children with elevated blood lead levels 0%
 - Based on CBLS County –level Summary Data for CA, 2007

Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention

- Objectives Relevant for the Native American Tribes:



- Provide education to the community for the purpose of increasing awareness regarding the hazards of lead exposure, reducing lead exposure, increasing the number of children assessed
- Increasing awareness of lead poisoning and how it can be prevented, particularly in vulnerable populations; Identification and reduction of primary sources of exposure

Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention



- Objectives Relevant for the Native American Tribes:
 - Contribute to the Health department concerted efforts of reaching the community towards reducing and ultimately eliminating Childhood lead program
 - Through relevant materials disseminated to the community; seek to create awareness to the public on how they can protect their health by ensuring compliance with building codes and other regulations related to lead poison prevention

Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention

- Buena Vista Rancheria has NO grant specifically for lead activities.
- “It is better to *prevent* lead poisoning from happening in the first place than to treat lead poisoning after it has occurred.”
- Childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable! No child deserves to suffer lead poisoning!

Level I: Community Organized Events



- Ongoing reports, literature, brochures, and thematic education displays to Tribal Citizens at events such as Tribal Council/staff meetings and other as follows:
 - Multi-cultural events
 - Earth Day Event
 - Elders' Dinner
 - Memorial Day
 - Sacramento Pow Wow
 - BV Child Development Center Parents
 - Native American Day
 - Circle of Nations-non-profit organization for inner city youth in Sacramento
 - SNAHC

Level I: Community Organized Events



- BV Child Development Center's Parents
- Native American Day
- Circle of Nations-non-profit organization for inner city youth in Sacramento
- SNAHC

Level I: Community Organized Events



- Attendance at Various Events:
 - Elders' Dinner
 - 2009 – 272
 - 2010 – 309
 - 2011 – n/a
 - TOTAL – 581

Level I: Community Organized Events



- Attendance at Various Events:
 - Christmas
 - 2009 – 744
 - 2010 – 629
 - 2011 – n/a
 - TOTAL – 1373

Level I: Community Organized Events



- Attendance at Various Events:
 - Memorial Day
 - 2009 – n/a
 - 2010 – 454
 - 2011 – 310
 - TOTAL – 764

Level II: Training BVR Staff & BVCDC Parents

- Training by BVR staff and presenters from SNAHC and AIIHI
 - Attendance by parents, staff, tribal members, and children
 - Offers in home visitation, environmental home inspections, nutritional assessments, etc.
 - Gave tips on prevention



Level II: Training BVR Staff & BVCDC Parents

- Results of Training:

- The training was found to be useful and most would attend and also recommend a friend to attend



- Most expressed an interest for more information on this issue and other environmental issues in the home
- Most wanted to know in what products lead is found: e.g. in water pipes, crayon's, electrical, pets
- The cost for testing for lead in home
- Symptoms talked about were similar to other diseases
- Lead may be in electrical at home
- Very many Victorian homes in Sacramento

Level III: Displays

- Relevant lead materials and brochures are displayed at the reception area for guests
- Magnets with Lead messages are posted on the fridge in the office break room
- On Story Board and on display boards in my office



Level III: Displays

- Type of lead messages delivered (content in literature disseminated)
 - Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health problem facing young children today
 - Susceptible to lead poisoning – people of any age, color or economic level but children at the greatest risk-children who suffer from lead poisoning may get very sick or even die.
 - The symptoms of lead poisoning
 - Effects and Impacts of Lead Poisoning



Level III: Displays

- Type of lead messages delivered (content in literature disseminated)
 - Exposure to lead is usually from lead paint in older homes. Lead paint was used in homes until 1978. Any home built before 1978 has the potential to have lead paint. When lead paint starts to deteriorate, or it is disturbed during home remodeling, it becomes a hazard. The paint turns to dust. The dust that results settles in the home and poisons children



Level III: Displays

- Type of lead messages delivered (content in literature disseminated)
 - The lead dust gets on the children's hand and toys. Children then put their hands and toys in their mouths. It takes a very small amount of lead dust to poison a child. Because younger children put more things in their mouths, they are more likely to get lead into their systems. The younger the child is when exposed to lead, the more severe the consequences

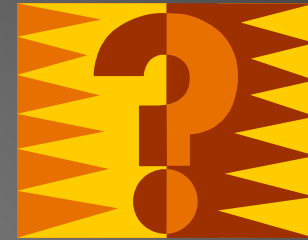


Level III: Displays

- Type of lead messages delivered (content in literature disseminated)
 - Lead poisoning hazards/lead found in dust; paint; water; soils; toys; household items, gasoline, batteries
 - Building codes
 - Tips on how to prevent lead poisoning



Level III: Displays



- Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is lead poisoning?
2. What are the symptoms of Lead poison in the blood?
3. What are the major sources of Lead poisoning?
4. Do I have to change my piping system in the house?
5. How can we prevent lead poisoning?
6. Who should worry about lead poisoning?
7. What are some simple steps to protect my child from lead poisoning?
8. Who should I contact to come and inspect my house for lead?

Level III: Displays

- EPA Pamphlets on lead and other environmental outreach materials (Sample Titles)



- Lead in Your Home: A Parent's Reference Guide
- Read the label First: Protect your household
- Testing Your Home for Lead in Paint, Dust, and Soil
- Finding a Qualified Lead Professional for Your Home

Level III: Displays

- EPA Pamphlets on lead and other environmental outreach materials (Sample Titles)
 - Lead Poisoning and Your Children
 - Chipper Knows the Deal with Lead
 - New Regulation on Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting: effective April 22, 2010
 - Lead Poisoning and Your Children (en español)
 - Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home



Level III: Displays

- EPA Pamphlets on lead and other environmental outreach materials (Sample Titles)



- Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home (en español)
- Ten Tips to Protect Children from Pesticide and Lead Poisonings around the Home
- Tri-Fold Brochure for Building Managers
- Lead and a Healthy Diet

Next Steps

- Look for possible funding so as to diversify our lead activities among other environmental issues. Also use some finding from U.S EPA GAP community and education outreach component.



Next Steps

- Continue assembling outreach materials and literature for dissemination at different venues; Provide information and education to the general public, medical providers and community-based organizations.
- Encourage the critical importance of blood lead screening for children in age of 18 months to 72 months- especially for children who live in pre-1978 homes.



Next Steps

- Endeavor to identify and work with child care providers in community (day care; preschool; Head Start etc) to make them aware of childhood lead poisoning issues and importance of blood lead screening for young children. Inform community members about using lead safe work practices when they renovate pre-1978 housing/child occupied sites or when they hire commercial contractors to do this work at pre-1978 buildings.



Next Steps

- Intensify the effort to work with Sacramento Native American Health Center to create awareness in many tribes in Amador and Sacramento Counties
- Continue conversations with Sacramento Country health department
- Continue working with Tribal Council to sensitize communities on hazards of Lead

