

Summary of Open Incidents Reported on FERN

Incident	Summary of problem	Agencies/ Organizations involved	Most recent Updates
Dilapidated Septic Tanks in Lanare	Dilapidated septic system in Lanare threaten public health and groundwater quality. Community wants agencies to look at wastewater disposal alternatives.	Leadership Counsel, FCDPH, LAFCO, Self-Help, CCEJN,	<p>Summary of previous updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Self-Help (SHE) reported that an assessment of the possibility of connecting Lanare’s waste water system to Riverdale was completed, but it wasn’t an in depth feasibility study. This study was focused on Waste Water because Lanare do not have a waste water system that could replace the individual septic tanks. -From LAFCO’s perspective, the Lanare Community Service District (LCSD) has a functioning board. A majority of board constitutes a quorum as long as the 3 board members are able to assemble. LAFCo scheduled the LCSD Municipal Service Review update during FY 2015-16, however the initiation was delayed due to limited district information available and logistics. -SHE reported the LCSD decided to place on hold the TMF Training in hopes a fourth board member could be secured. The 6-month Rural Leadership Training Workshops began in June. -Neither the LCSD Board nor the community have recruited a new Board member. Fresno County Supervisor Mendez can now appoint a replacement. <p>February & March, 2017 meetings:</p> <p>Sue Ruiz (SHE) reported via email: Self Help will work with the Lanare CSD Board to complete an application for a Sewer Planning Study and work conjunctionally with Leadership Council to do outreach to the entire community to determine the level of support from the community for a sewer project. Leadership Counsel will survey the community in the next few months.</p> <p>April 2017 meeting: No update</p>
Water not drinkable in Lanare	Lanare’s public drinking water system is contaminated with arsenic. Years ago the county established an arsenic treatment plant but failed to do an adequate feasibility study beforehand. The community can no longer use	SWRCB, Self-Help, Leadership Counsel, CCEJN	<p>Summary of previous updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lanare’s water system is under “receivership” due to the Lanare CSD’s inability to manage the water system. Lanare Community Service District (LCSD) must demonstrate TMF capacity to the Water Board (WB) before the WB can authorize the LCSD take back management of the water system. The current receiver is a private water company who has agreed to continue managing the water system through construction of the new wells and distribution system replacement.

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	<p>the plant and has been left with approximately \$90k of debt that the community pays back via their water bills (\$130/month).</p>		<p>-The bid for the 2 new wells was approved in January 2016. On March 2016, Betsy Lichti (State Water Resources Control Board) updated that a funding agreement for 2 new wells was reviewed and approved. At the May 2016 meeting, Betsy stated that construction of the new wells is estimated to be completed by May 2017 and the district is also working on a funding agreement to replace the water distribution system.</p> <p>-Leadership Counsel confirmed that the bottle water program will be in place until the water of the new wells is connected.</p> <p>March, 2017 meeting: Betsy Lichti reported that two wells were constructed, one was accepted and one rejected due to construction problems. Additional funds are needed to construct a third well but funds haven't been approved.</p> <p>April, 2017 meeting: There were no representatives from Leadership Counsel, nor from the State Water Resources, however, Nayamin reported that Betsy Lichti had moved to Sacramento to take another job with the state and we do not know yet who will be taking her place at our monthly meetings.</p>
<p>Running out of water on Tombstone territory</p>	<p>A resident in this area, which is outside the City of Sanger, reported that she ran out of water from her well. This community has about 30 homes and apparently they are all on private wells.</p>	<p>Leadership Counsel, LAFCO, CRLA</p>	<p>Summary of previous updates:</p> <p>-The resident who owns the property and who's well dried out was approved on Feb. 2016 to receive a loan through the funds for home-well replacements. The other resident who rented a property in Tombstone was assisted by CRLA to enroll in CalWorks and in the Subsidized Housing Program, which gives her a voucher in the amount of her monthly rent and allows her to select low-income housing of her choice.</p> <p>-LAFCO originally reported that this community didn't seem to be meet the criteria to be considered a rural disadvantage community but that more information on the median household income was needed to verify this.</p> <p>-Leadership Counsel and CCEJN were exploring the possibility of canvassing this community to find out the community's average income and their opinion of connecting to Sanger's water system.</p>

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			<p>March, 2017 meeting: Community members received in February a presentation about maintenance of septic tanks; they reiterated their interest of consolidating with City of Sanger. Leadership Counsel and CCEJN had individual meetings with various City Council Members and the Community Development Director. All expressed support for the project if they are funds to pay for the expenses. Leadership Counsel is exploring funding mechanisms.</p> <p>April, 2017 meeting: Nayamin Martinez (CCEJN) reported that the results of the water tests conducted in one of the homes in Cottle Ave. were positive for bacteria (but not E Coli) and were high in nitrates (40 vs the recommended 10 MCL). The owners of the home where water sample was taken were informed and were given explanation of short-term solutions. A community meeting will be convened to share the water tests' results with all residents and to continue the discussion of possibilities to connect with Sanger's Water System.</p>
3829 Cottle Ave. Sanger – Abandoned House	The neighbors of this house want someone to take care of it because they described it as: "house it's a dangerous structure and it's a breeding ground for rats and snakes".	Environmental Health	<p>Summary of previous updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gustavo (Environmental Health) mentioned that they haven't identify the owner of the property thus there is not much the County can do. Currently the property is under the County's conservatorship; they are waiting until the property is sold. -The problem of orphan properties is becoming more and more common in Fresno County. Several task force members expressed concerns that the county couldn't take responsibility for cleaning up the property despite it is under conservatorship. It would be good to understand what this entails. <p>March, 2017: The Public Administrator received the property appraisal, it was valued at \$45,000. The county plans on having it for sale by the end of the week of March 12. Interested buyers should contact at Nina Acosta 600-5181.</p>

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			<p>April, 2017 meeting: Sabrina Ashjian (DA's Office) reported that there was a buyer for the house, the property was on escrow and sale should be finalized by April 21, 2017. Once this property is sold it will be the new owner's responsibility to clean it up.</p>
World Oil San Joaquin	<p>-On the December 2015 meeting Cesar Campos (CCEJN) mentioned that a group of residents in Parlier reported the proposed expansion of a facility that handles hazardous waste (anti-freeze, waste oil, oily water) in their community.</p>	DTSC, CCEJN	<p>Summary of previous updates: -This facility is in Parlier and operates three above ground tanks and has a current capacity of storing 47,000 gallons of hazardous waste (anti-freeze, waste oil, oily water). A group of residents in Parlier, Parlier Fact Finding Committee, is opposing the proposed expansion of this facility. -Cesar Campos suggested getting more information from DTSC. -On Feb.,2016 the Parlier Fact Finding Committee and CCEJN sent a letter of opposition to DTSC.</p> <p>March, 2017 meeting: Sergio Chavez (DTSC) reported: that the environmental review hasn't started, but that is the last step in the review of the modification request. Karen Steen is the Project Manager (510) 540-3812.</p> <p>April, 2017 meeting: The environmental review process is still in progress.</p>
Five Points Pesticide Drift	<p>Solar farm workers were drifted on a pistachio orchard near Five Points.</p>	Fresno Ag Commissioner	<p>Summary of previous updates: -At the June meeting Fresno Ag Commissioner reported that workers at a solar farm were decontaminated at the site and all of them recovered; he wasn't sure of the number of affected workers but apparently 8-12. This is still an open investigation that is being handled by the Ag Commissioner's office at Huron, they know who the grower is and the company responsible for the application. More information will be provided as the investigation continues.</p> <p>March, 2017 meeting: Stace Leoni reported via email: The Fresno Ag Commissioner (CAC) took samples and interviewed the 12 affected workers and applicators, they also conducted a headquarter safety inspection of Walker Farms and determined violations of California Food & Agricultural Code (FAC) 12973 and Title 3</p>

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			<p>California Code of Regulations. CAC enforcement action is pending and a final report will be send to DPR by March 31, 2017.</p> <p>April 2017 meeting: Tom Ulman reported that Fresno Ag Commissioner finalized their investigation and submitted their report to DPR, which didn't recommend any fines or notice of proposed action. DPR requested the Fresno Ag Comm. to do some edits in the report. Mr. Ulman asked to close this case but the task force members preferred to keep the report open until the final report is approved by DPR.</p>
<p>Illegal Dumping & Community Clean-Ups</p>	<p>CCEJN and other partners have received numerous complaints about illegal dumping in private alleys. City used to clean the alleys but the city no longer has funding to do this. Trash around Recycling Centers (i.e. a4638 East Thomas Ave., Fresno) is another common problem.</p>	<p>Leadership Counsel, CCEJN, Environmental Health, CalRecycle</p>	<p>Summary of previous updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In 2015, CCEN and Leadership Counsel began engaging residents and other local organizations (PIQE, Centro la Familia) in discussion about the problem of illegal dumping. The groups agreed to draft a city-wide illegal dumping ordinance that will serve to strategically enhance the current processes for preventing and mitigating illegal dumping across the City of Fresno. -US-EPA provided funding to investigate and produce some educational materials regarding how to report trash and abandoned structure in Fresno County. -Community members continue to be organized throughout the city and continues to do clean-ups as a way of mobilizing against this problem. -Leadership Counsel and CCEJN reported that while they have been trying to advocate for an ordinance for the whole city, right now it seems that each City Council member is tackling this problem on different ways. <p>March, 2017 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Over 60 volunteers (including adults, youth and children) gathered on March 11 and cleaned up 3 alleyways in District 5. Council Member Luis Chavez was present to help. More clean-ups will be scheduled in the next months as well as meetings with City Council Members of Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7. <p>April 2017 meeting: Nayamin reported that at the end of April, residents will meet to plan more community clean-ups and to determine the ideas/strategies they will discuss</p>

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			with the Council Members of Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. There was a specific request from parents of Jane Adams Elementary to clean an area on Hughes Ave. that is covered with grass, weeds and trash, children who walk to school from a mobile home park have to walk in the street. This clean-up is planned for April 29, 2017 at 8:30 am.
Body shop in backyard near Reedley	Resident living outside of Reedley reported that his neighbor operates a body shop in his backyard, uses all types of paints and sprays that causes problems for his asthma.	CCEJN, DA office	<p>-During the November meeting, Sabrina Ashjian (Fresno County DA's Office) explained that her office could follow up on this case. Nayamin sent her the address of where the body shop is located.</p> <p>March, 2017, meeting: Daniel Martinez (SJVAPCD) reported that an inspector went out on 2/22/17, observed numerous cars being prepped for painting. They didn't have a permit filed with the SJVAPCD. They were issued a notice of violation (tracking #48376). Sabrina reported that body-shops are also licensed by the Bureau of Automotive Reports; they didn't have a record of issuing a license for that address. Gustavo Gomez (Env. Health) explained that depending on location, this type of businesses also need a license from Environmental Health.</p> <p><i>April 2017 meeting:</i> No update</p>
Flies and trash burning in Lanare	Two properties are burning trash and have livestock that has increased significantly the number of flies in the community.	CCEJN	<p>January 2016 meeting: Nayamin called Fresno County Code Enforcement who responded that the two properties mentioned in the report are located in an agricultural district that allows owners to maintain, breed and raise all kinds of livestock. They sent CCEJN staff the section of the code (816) that regulates these locations so we can assess if there are any potential violations. While trying to submit this report, Nayamin noticed that Fresno County doesn't have the Building Codes/Zoning Ordinance Violation Complaint form in Spanish.</p> <p>February 2017 meeting: Nayamin is reviewing the zoning ordinance to determine if the two properties are breaking any regulations, they maybe as some animals are exempted (swine, sheep, goats). Nayamin will check back with the reporters to determine if they have any of these animals in the properties. Adam Kook (DA's Office)</p>

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			<p>reported that the complaint form is now available in Spanish in the county's website.</p> <p>March, 2017 meeting: Nayamin visited Lanare but from the road it is not possible to see what kind of animals they have in the properties that were reported, but according to the neighbors they do have sheep; the form will be filed with this information. Nayamin also noticed that the Building Codes/Zoning Ordinance Violation Complaint Form hasn't been translated.</p> <p>April 2017 meeting: No update on the status of this report. However, Nayamin mentioned that when she approached the staff at the Department of Public Works and Planning to request that the complaint form is translated, she couldn't find someone to help with this and was transferred to the department in charge of the County's website.</p>
Neighbors with chickens	Neighbors living in residential area of City of Fresno (1914 E Tyler) have chickens and hens in their backyard.	Code Enforcement, CCEJN	-Nayamin submitted the report to Code Enforcement who confirmed that in this address neighbors are not allowed to have chickens; they were going to follow up with the resident.
Oil pump leaking in Riverdale	A resident reported a puddle under an oil pump that seems to be leaking at 21123 S Cornelia Ave. Riverdale	DOGGR	-CCEJN submitted the report to DOGGR. The office in Bakersfield has inspectors that cover the Fresno County area. DOGGR reported that they sent an inspector and they were not sure if the puddle was rain-water or oil because. They will send an inspector again in a couple of weeks once it stops raining.
Water reports in Riverdale	Riverdale resident reported run-off water on public property near various dairies in Riverdale (1713 W Mt. Whitney Ave; 5238 W. Harlan Ave.; 5547 W. Harlan Ave.)	RWQCB; Env. Health	-CCEJN submitted report to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to Environmental Health. Gustavo Gomez (Env. Health) reported via email that: "Tony Shamshoian who works in the dairy program went out to the sites. He indicated that there weren't any unusual standing water issues at the facilities, but because of the heavy rains, it's taken the dairy operators a bit more time to mitigate excessive water pooling, but are eventually able to take care of the problem.

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			<p>April 2017 meeting: Anthony Toto (RWQCB) reported that inspectors visited the facilities and determined that in the diary located at 1713 W Mt. Whitney Ave., Riverdale CA, standing water pool in the corrals was observed. However, the Dairy owner was working on removing the water from corrals. In the other two locations (5283 W. Harlan Ave. and 5547 W. Harlan Ave. there was no standing water in areas that were visible from the public roads.</p>
Pond with algae in Riverdale	A resident reported something that looks like pond with algae located at 5403 W. Mt. Whitney Ave., Riverdale CA.	RWCQB, Mosquito Abatement Program	-CCEJN submitted the report to the RQWCB. Anthony Toto reported that their inspectors that visited the site found that near Polk Ave and W. Mt Whitney appears to be low-lying area along that road and there is every possibility of water pooling at that intersection. This can be an area of interest to Mosquito Abatement District.
Neighbor with multiple code violations in Biola	Neighbor at 12677 C Street in Biola has cars and a boat parked on lawn, in-op cars in the drive-way and along the streets	Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning	-CCEN submitted a written report using the English version of the "Building Codes/Zoning Ordinance Violation Complaint Form"