

News Release

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County Wins \$5,000 Award from the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals

2012 Lowry Memorial Award recognizes best recreational health programs in the U.S.

Sacramento, CA – The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) announced yesterday that Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) was the winner of the 2012 Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award. It includes a plaque and \$5,000 to support educational, technical, and operational activities by the winning program. Colleen Maitoza, supervising environmental specialist, accepted the award for the department.

The award honors and recognizes public health officials who have made outstanding contributions to advance the public's healthy and safe use of public swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, and water parks.

The award is given in the memory of Dr. Neil Lowry, a long-time member of APSP, who influenced the pool and spa industry for over 25 years as a consultant to government and private industry.

The Environmental Management Department plans to use the award to provide more workshops for operators and service companies to continue reduction of major violations; create brochures and flyers to support their educational offerings; and develop and fund a survey to identify deficiencies in knowledge, and then tailor training based on results.

“The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department has demonstrated a commitment to the education of pool operators and service companies to assist them in understanding how to fix and reduce the occurrence of major violations,” said Ken Jenke, regulatory engineer at Zodiac Pools Systems, Inc., and subcommittee chair of the Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award Program, through the Recreational Water Quality (RWQ) Committee at APSP. “By increasing the number of workshops and creating brochures for the operators and service companies, the department should be able to reduce the number of major violations at swimming pools even further than they already have.”

Past winners of the Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award are Alexandria (VA) Health Dept., 2011; City of Houston, 2010; and Plano, TX, 2009.

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