



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

## In This Edition:

- > Code Enforcement Officer earns state honors
- > New crossing safeguards otters, pedestrians
- > Health academy graduates celebrated

## SPECIALREPORT



*Josh Bowling holds his Code Enforcement Officer of the Year trophy.*

## County Notes

- > You are invited! See new artwork at the Government Center and enjoy a meet the artist reception December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m.

# Bowling Named State Code Enforcement Office of the Year

As a Senior Code Compliance Inspector with the Resource Management Agency, Josh Bowling has seen 'it all' or at least most of it. But he didn't see the honors coming his way at the recent California Association of Code Enforcement Officers Annual Seminar.

Bowling was awarded the prestigious Code Enforcement Office of the Year Award which is designed to honor those who consistently provide outstanding work but are also the profession's unsung heroes, who "work tirelessly behind the scenes to make your agencies run better, your communities safer."

The award was given at the association's annual seminar, which Bowling attended, but receiving the award came as a complete surprise.

"It was surprise to receive an award for just doing my job the best I can," says Bowling.

Code Enforcement Manger Tim Burns says Bowling was the perfect candidate for this award.

"Josh is dedicated, committed and hard-working, humble and unassuming," says Burns. "He is a problem solver and a consummate professional always looking to improve. He has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the organization, the community and to the profession."

In nominating Bowling for the award, Burns described his professional rise through RMA from Land Use Technician to Senior Code Compliance Inspector. He also gave the awards panel a sample of some of the challenging investigations and projects Josh has been assigned over the last year.

- Substandard and dangerous housing for migrant workers. 30-70 people were living in former army barracks with failing septic. His enforcement actions and participation in court mediation resulted in the owner agreeing to address problems.
- Josh worked with the Sheriff's Office's execution of an inspection warrant for a marijuana grow which found non-permitted construction, septic, grading and environmental violations.
- A foreclosed, vacant and boarded substandard single family residence presented a danger as it was contaminated with methamphetamine. Josh was able to resolve enforcement issues, avoiding a hearing. The bank agreed to demolish residence and pay \$23,000.00 in combined investigative fees and fines.

Congratulations Josh!



## Unique Otter Crossing Installed to Safeguard Wildlife, Pedestrians

The tragic loss of a sea otter near Moss Landing last summer drew attention to the need for safer crossing options for both pedestrians and sea otters along Moss Landing Road. That safety feature is now in place.

It's called a speed table. Speed tables are flat-topped speed humps with room for the entire wheelbase of a passenger car to rest on top. The flat-top design slows vehicles to about 20-25 mph. The table is 3 inches high, 25 ½ feet wide, 14 feet long and made of hard recycled rubber tires which is bolted into the roadway.



*One of the resident sea otters keeps an eye on county work crews during installation of the speed table.*

sea otter and met the highway signs standards,” explains Shawn Atkins, RMA-Roads and Bridges Operations Manager who helped design the prototype signs.

The signs were followed up this week with the speed table which includes a cross walk to help pedestrians using Moss Landing Road. Luckily, county crews were able to use a table from Public Works inventory. The table is fully operational, but crews will be back later this week to add a few more parts which have been on order to finalize the project.

The table is located on Moss Landing Road beside the Whole Enchilada off Highway 1. This is the spot where a sea otter crossing the road from the Elkhorn Slough towards the Moss Landing Harbor was struck and killed on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The situation occurred because at the time, the tide gates normally used by the otters were closed to prevent salt water from entering the Elkhorn Slough.

Locals were distraught about the accident and wanted to find a way to prevent any more such incidents. RMA-Public Works arranged a meeting with local agencies overseeing wildlife and the harbor to find a way to help raise driver awareness that otters occasionally need to cross the roadway.

The first step came in early August, when new signs were installed warning drivers that sea otters were crossing the road at this location and to slow down.

“We discovered that sea otter signs didn’t exist in the current standard highway signs inventory, so we worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, Sea Otter Alliance and the Monterey Bay Aquarium to create a sign that accurately depicted a



*Public Works crews install the speed table on Moss Landing Road (above).*





*Locals created and still maintain a shrine for the otter who died who was affectionately known as "Mr. Enchilada."*

To accommodate the table, the road was widened and some of the roads striping was replaced. Ongoing work in the coming weeks will include finishing the center and edge line striping as well as improving the shoulder for pedestrian access.

Fencing was installed to help guide sea otters to use the crossing and an opening on the harbor side of the road was moved beyond the existing concrete railing to prevent animals from becoming trapped on the roadway.

To see how otters are adjusting to the new pathway, an existing wildlife camera (installed by other agencies) in the area will be monitored for sea otter movement.

---

## Health Leadership Graduates Celebrated

The Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau is celebrating its own, staff who have graduated from the Monterey County Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (MEPHLI).

Ten staff members successfully completed the program and their achievement marked by a graduation ceremony which included program presentations.

The graduation ceremony is the culmination of a fourteen-month leadership academy which is designed to mirror the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI) program.

John Ramirez, Director of the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau and Ric Encarnacion, Assistant Bureau Director, are both EPHLI graduates and wanted to offer the leadership development opportunities to staff.

"MEPHLI is designed to develop personal as well as job related leadership skills to all staff in our bureau," says Ramirez. "Our goal is to develop a learning organization that will benefit staff, our bureau and the health department."

County Administrative Officer Dr. Lew Bauman presented the graduation keynote address, sharing his insights on leadership with participants. Also in attendance were Assistant County Administrative Officer Manny Gonzalez and Director of Health Elsa Jimenez.



As part of the program, graduates must present an individual project that addresses one or more of the Health Department's Ten Essential Services as well as a PowerPoint presentation.

*MEPHLI participants and others at the program graduation. Pictured from left to right: Elsa Jimenez, Health Department Director; CAO Lew Bauman, Cory Welch, REHS III; Randy McMurray, REHS III; Marni Flagg, REHS IV; Robert Fernandez, REHS III; Rosa Arreola-Cardona, Principal Office Assistant; Nicki Fowler, REHS IV; Ric Encarnacion, Assistant Director of Environmental Health; John Ramirez, Director of Environmental Health; Leonor Lopez, Principal Office Assistant; Jesse Anaya, Office Assistant; Maria Ferdin, REHS III; Robin Kimball, Management Analyst.*

The projects are as diverse as the bureau itself. Here is a list of project subjects:

- *"Land Use & Onsite Wastewater Resource Encyclopedia (LORE)"* by Nicki Fowler
- *"Creating a Reference Tool for Office Support Staff"* by Rosa Arreola-Cardona
- *"Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety & Security-Strengthening Community Planning & Preparedness"* by Robert Fernandez
- *"Wilderness Public Health & Safety"* by Maria Ferdin
- *"Standard Billing Procedures and Policies for the Environmental Health Bureau"* by Leonor Lopez
- *"Recruitment Fast Track: Getting on Board to Get on Board"* by Robin Kimball
- *"Aligning FDA Standardization with the Ten Essential Services to Facilitate the Reduction of Food Borne Illness"* by Marni Flagg
- *"The Development of the Unified Effort in Emergency Response"* by Cory Welch
- *"Housing Complaint Guidelines"* by Randy McMurray
- *"One County-One License"* by Jesus (Jesse) Anaya

This group is the second to graduate from the MEPHLI program and the graduation event also served as a welcome to the next group of students into the academy program. Graduates from the first two academies will act as mentors and offer support to these new participants.