

CCLHO Environmental Health Committee

The Environmental Committee meets quarterly, in person, and by Webex and/or teleconference, typically on the fourth Thursday of the month, and communicates between meetings via e-mail, as necessary.

Membership includes Health Officers or designees, plus representatives from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH), California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California Air Resources Board (CARB). Any interested Health Officer may join.

The CCLHO Policy Platform states, “The Health Officer is responsible for assuring the effectiveness of the mandated health protection functions of local government, including... environmental health. He or she is charged with enforcing local health orders and ordinances, the orders and rules prescribed by the California Department of Public Health, and the statutes related to public health...California must have a strong, integrated state/local environmental health partnership effort with the goal of providing a safe and healthful environment through the reduction of environmental threats and hazards, this is a core public health activity best accomplished at the local level.”

CCLHO and the Environmental Health Committee will continue to:

- Work with local Health Officers to strengthen their role in addressing environmental health issues
- Work with CCDEH to strengthen the partnership between local Health Officers and Directors of Environmental Health
- Utilize the expertise in CDPH, Cal EPA, CDFA, CARB, and other agencies to increase the Health Officer’s knowledge
- Strongly support the local Health Officer as physician, with legal authorities in statute, based on that assumption
- Identify the need for legislation or proposed legislation that supports CCLHO goals and objectives

Examples of committee projects and issues we are continuing to work on include:

- Strengthening the working relationship between Health Officers and Air Pollution Control Officers (APCO’s)
- Participate in the California Air Response Planning Alliance (CARPA) to prepare for hazardous air pollution releases
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the status of water (both quantity and quality) in the State
- Find non-legislative methods of addressing environmental health issues, especially in an era of diminished interest in bolstering governmental enforcement activities
- Find the balance between allowing creative answers to food delivery and protecting the public from high risk foods