

# Announcement

## Ralph Hunter Memorial Award

2022 Recipient

### Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo

Chief Environmental Health Specialist  
Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health  
Solid Waste Management Program

The Ralph Hunter Memorial Award is in recognition of an individual who has made a major impact to the solid waste field/Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) program through development of a special or new program, involvement with educational activities, committees and/or workgroups, permitting and/or enforcement, or a special achievement that enhances the protection of public and environmental health principles.

Dee has 19 years of experience in the environmental health field, 14 years of which were spent with the Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency. She was promoted to Environmental Health Specialist IV in 2016, and promoted to Chief Environmental Health Specialist of the Solid Waste Permitting and Surveillance Program in 2019. She earned a Master of Arts in Public Administration in 2015, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1998. Some of Dee's notable contributions include:

- Co-Program Manager for Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL LEA) and the SCL Technical Advisory Committee
- Served on the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Future Roadmap Implementation Working Group and Los Angeles County Mass Debris Management Plan Development Team
- Co-author of an article published in MSW Management Magazine on the best management practices of odor mitigation and the use of aerial imaging to detect methane emissions at landfills
- Hosted CalRecycle Roundtable meetings in 2016, 2017 and 2019, and served as Southwestern Regional Roundtable Chair and Enforcement Advisory Council (EAC) Co-Chair from 2021-2023
- Worked jointly with the South Coast Air Quality Management District in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the mitigation measures required by the Abatement Order for Sunshine Canyon Landfill

- Renewed the Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) and played a critical role in the LEA Enforcement Program Plan (EPP) updates and proper implementation
- Initiated and completed a fee study to ensure that the appropriate fees were assessed for services provided by the LEA for the protection of public health, safety and the environment
- Currently taking enforcement action against controversial illegal dumping sites in several LA County unincorporated areas in collaboration with County District Attorney, CalRecycle, and Regional Planning and Public Works
- Collaborations with NASA and NASA-funded California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Autonomy Research Center for STEAHM (ARCS) to include the following achievements:
  - Sunshine Canyon Landfill LEA is the national benchmark environmental enforcement agency case study for their National Science Foundation funded research project to evaluate and transform the solid waste and organics processing industry
  - Dee provides oversight and guidance in several industry-transforming projects that will determine the effectiveness of conducting waste characterization using video and an array of sensors and determine the performance equivalency of a computer-based system with the use of artificial intelligence
  - Dee serves as an industry and regulatory advisor for the national initiative to help traditionally underserved and underrepresented community members enter technical fields
  - The SCL LEA presented at the Waste Expo (2022) on the LEA's odor and methane mitigation measures and aerial imaging, and has received an invitation from the US State Department to attend the 2022 and 2023 United Nations Conference on Climate Change

Dee is a worthy recipient of the 2022 Ralph Hunter Memorial Award. Please join us in congratulating her on this achievement.