

Announcement

Ralph Hunter Memorial Award

2023 Recipient

John Lewis

Supervising Environmental Specialist IV
County of Sacramento
Local Enforcement Agency

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.

John began his career with the LEA program as an Environmental Health Specialist III in 2011 after 15 years working at the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department. He was promoted to supervisor of the LEA group in 2019, overseeing large scale projects and mentoring junior staff. Although retiring in March 2022, John returned as a retired annuitant in November of 2022. Some of his notable contributions include:

- Developed and presented LEA trainings at the state-wide Technical Training Series and other conferences from 2011 through 2017
- Worked jointly with Sacramento Fire Department and CalFire to develop fire safety workshops for solid waste operators in Sacramento County and co-presented the workshops in 2016, 2019 and 2021
- Worked with CalRecycle Engineering Support staff to develop a series of landfill gas training courses presented across Northern California in 2016
- Led a large-scale site investigation and environmental remediation of a group of abandoned landfills north of midtown Sacramento
- Developed and implemented Abandoned Well Program and was the lead stormwater compliance inspector
- Worked with the City of Sacramento to bring the closed Elvas Landfill into compliance with gas and settlement issues

- Collaborated with private owners, city and municipalities to effectively address complex enforcement cases

- Developed and presented various trainings, including:
 - 2014 Construction and Demolition Debris and Inert Debris (CDI) Recycling Centers, Beyond the 3-Part Test
 - 2016 Common Sense Fire Prevention Measures for Solid Waste Operators
 - 2017 Landfill Gas Training for LEAs
 - 2017 A Quick Guide to Reviewing Operating Documents
 - 2019 CEQA and the LEA
 - 2021 Fire Prevention and Mitigation Measures for Business Operators
 - 2022 Agromin/Compost Operations Basics

John is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Ralph Hunter Memorial Award. Please join us in congratulating him on this achievement.