



## Indoor Radon Program August 2015

**Activity Report Period:** November 2014 through August 2015

**SIRG Number:** K1 - 97948614 - 0

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### **Summary**

The California Indoor Radon Program (Program) is funded primarily by award of federal grant funds under the EPA State Indoor Radon Grant Program (SIRG). The following activities were completed in accordance with the 2014 and 2015 SIRG work plans. Due to significant State of California contract delays and the timing of some services, the Program requested an extension of 2014 SIRG funds. EPA granted the extension, and in 2015 the Program is operating completing all tasks in both the 2014 and 2015 work plans.

### **Radon Screening Surveys**

The Program previously released Special Report 224, Radon Potential Zone and Map of the Palos Verdes Region. The County of Los Angeles coordinated a general public information session December 15, 2015 at the Palos Verdes Public Library. The County published a notice in the local paper. This was the first public meeting the Program has held since 2009. The program also released Special Report 226, Radon Potential Zone and Map of San Mateo County in January 2015. The next report, covering Orange County, will be released in the fall of 2015. The California Radon Program has now conducted radon screening in areas containing 40% of the total California population.

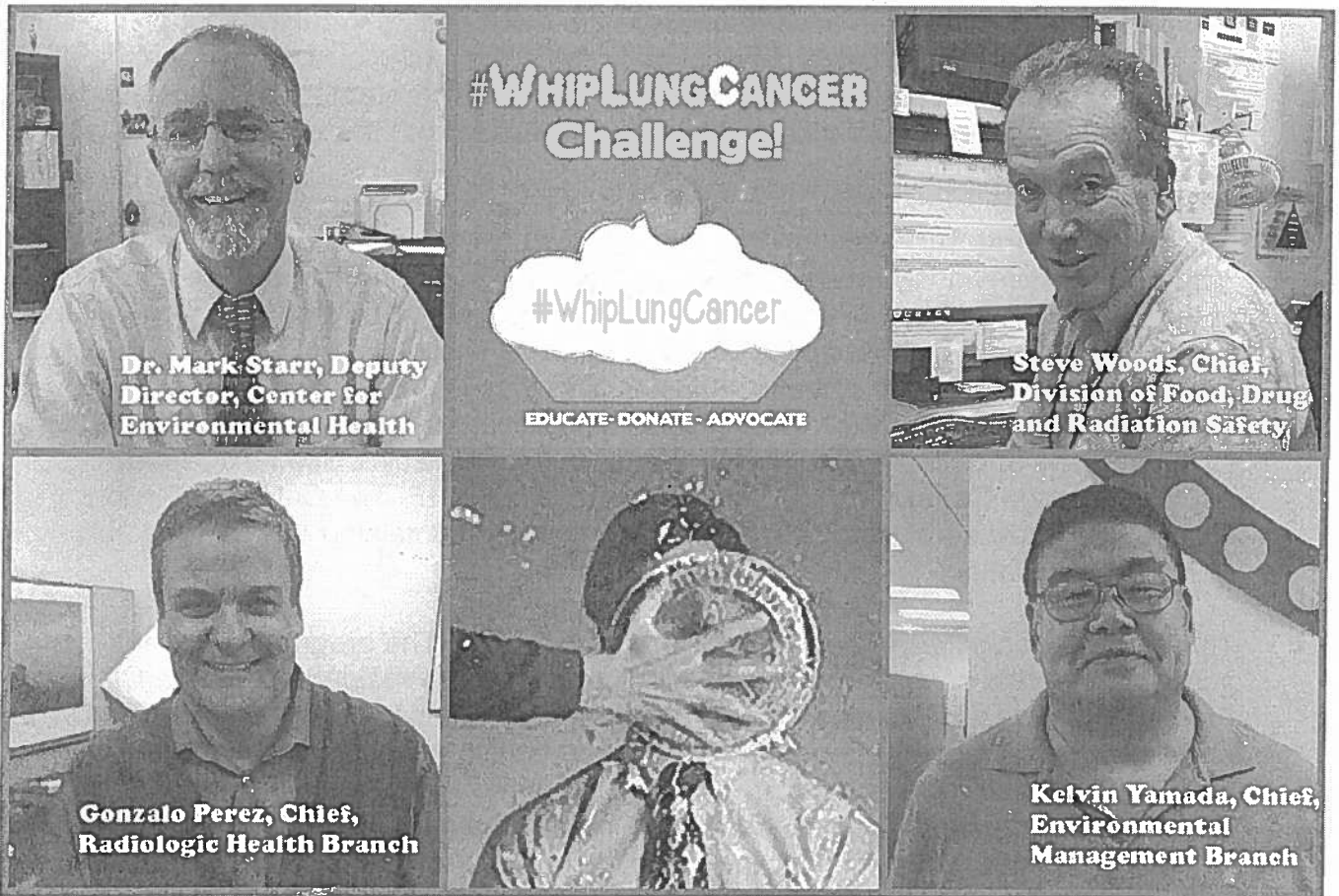
Three new radon screening surveys will begin in the fall. The program is currently acquiring the data necessary to send recruitment letters to residents of Santa Clara, Fresno, and Madera Counties. Letters will be sent in October, with test kits being used and delivered throughout the winter. For the first time in the program's history, a Communication and Outreach plan is being developed in partnership with the CDPH Office of Public Affairs. Their support will help raise the response rate of screening surveys. The plan includes social media posts, formal press releases, and cross-posting with other agencies and organizations.

### Outreach Activities

The program attended the October 2014 Tuolumne County Health Fair. Eighty-two free test kits were distributed to County residents. The Program also attended the July 2015 San Jose S.T.E.A.M fair, with approximately 1,200 attendees.

### National Radon Action Month

The Program hosted a department-wide Whip Lung Cancer Challenge. The goal was to raise awareness of radon within our own agency and to introduce the program to the many staff that were unfamiliar with it. The challenge recruited four senior-level staff members to raise funds via a raffle. The raffle winners would be able to deliver a whipped cream pie to the face of one of our four volunteers. The inaugural event raised \$254 for radon and lung cancer awareness, which was donated to CanSAR. The event also gave the program the opportunity to increase awareness with executive staff. The participants' response was positive, and many requested we repeat the challenge for the 2016 National Radon Action Month.



### **Region IX Stakeholder Meeting**

In partnership with EPA, CanSAR, and Region IX State Radon offices, the Program has hosted the first Region IX Radon Stakeholder Meeting in February 2015. This first meeting had 40 attendees, representing public and private sector radon stakeholders and three states. It is hopeful that the meeting will occur annually, with Region IX states hosting.

### **California Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan**

At the request of the Control Plan Lung Cancer Subcommittee, the Program had the opportunity to provide input into the 2015 California Cancer Control Plan update. Working together with our Program, the lung cancer subcommittee developed draft strategies that would promote radon awareness, testing, and mitigation. This is the first time radon will be included in the CA Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

### **Other Partnerships:**

The Program has partnered with the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation to test multiple State Parks facilities throughout the state. Free test kits will be provided to the agency. Depending on test results, the Program may provide referrals to Certified Radon Service Providers.

The Program has begun to work with CA Department of Toxic Substances Control to include radon testing at certain school sites. DTSC is charged with creating clean-up and operations and maintenance plans for school sites, on behalf of the CA Department of Education. The Program is helping DTSC determine when they should include Radon Resistant New Construction techniques, radon testing, and radon mitigation in the construction or modification of public school sites which fall under their jurisdiction.

The Happy Home Company, based in San Jose, has partnered with the Program to provide radon information and test kits to their clients. The company provides home management services to homeowners throughout the

state. The Program developed a tip sheet for their clients discussing how to use test kits and what the next steps were for mitigation. The Happy Home Company sent radon information to their clients as part of National Radon Action Month, and the response rate for test kits was approximately 25%. Sixty-five homes were tested as part of the pilot program, and the company plans on repeating the program for new customers every January.

### **Database and Data Collection**

The Program has begun developing an improved radon test result database. Certified testers and mitigators have begun to provide post-2010 data and we are working with a consultant to develop a QA/QC algorithm to review incoming data. The database reporting features are based on the Nevada Radon Program's reports. Beta testing is scheduled to begin in October, with a public launch in January during radon action

month. Additional metrics the program is developing is a streamlined reporting program that will allow radon professionals to quickly report on homes tested and mitigated in a year, and updated call tracking software to track the trends of incoming calls on the State Radon Hotline. The goal is to have these in place by January 2016 so the full year's data can be collected and shared with EPA and the public.

### **Next Reporting Period**

Activities planned in the next reporting period include:

- RFQ for the 2015 test kit vendor
- Development and adoption of a Radon Program 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Design of a more user-friendly website
- Launch of three radon screening surveys
- Debut of new radon zip code database, beta in October, formal launch in January 2016