



EPC's 2012 Annual Report

FLORIDA
GARDENS & PARK

supported by
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF HILLSBOROUGH
COUNTY'S POLLUTION RECOVERY FUND

Southwest Florida
Hillsborough County
A Florida DEP

EPC Board Meeting
September 20, 2012

Core Mission

The Enabling Act Prescribes Core Functions to Be:

- ✿ Citizen response
- ✿ Air, water, wetlands, and waste permitting, compliance, and enforcement
- ✿ Ambient air and water monitoring
- ✿ Noise program

Delegated thirteen major programs from State and Port Authority

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I. State of the Environment

A. Twenty Year Trend 1992- 2012

B. 2012 Success Stories

II. State of the Agency

A. Resizing and Adapting

B. 2012 Initiatives and Results

1992



A member of an EPA testing team places blackened sand and pieces of old battery casings, taken from a Normandy Park Apartment playground, into a sampling container.

Jeffrey Huggins/TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS

More tests

EPA samples show battery casings

BY JEFFREY HUGGINS
NEWS EDITOR

Pieces of old battery casings were found buried under three feet of sand on the playground of Normandy Park Apartments last week.

Officials from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were at the Temple Terrace apartment complex for two days last week taking ground samples. The dirt samples taken from various locations at the complex, 11110 N. 56th Street, just south of City Hall, were sent to the EPA testing lab in Athens, Ga.

EPA's on scene coordinator Samantha Clements had her crew taking dirt samples for testing within two feet of an apartment playground. The cylinders of sand that were placed in sterile jars by men in sterile, white plastic suits ranged from light brown to black. The black samples were filled with chunks of battery casings.

As a man in a gas mask and yellow plastic boots twisted an aluminum rod into the playground, a grinding noise stopped his work. "I've hit some pretty solid casings," he said. The next sample brought up more black sand and chunks that he placed in a sample jar.

"We use distilled water to wash the sample jars

other chemicals in it except hydrogen and oxygen. "We are usually looking for a variety of chemical in the samples. In this case, lead is our main focus," said Hagan Thompson, spokesman for the EPA in Atlanta.

The agency is getting involved because of request from the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER). Officials from the DER cite lack of resources as a reason for EPA's entering the picture. Gulf Coast Recycling, owner of Normandy Apartments, was requested by the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) to conduct tests of the ground at the complex after the commission was notified that lead contamination was possible at the site.

Low levels of lead were discovered at the complex in January, but Hillsborough County Health Department officials said that the situation was not serious.

Three children living at the apartments had small amounts of lead show up in blood tests, but county health officials once again said that the levels were not a serious threat to the health of children at the complex. Since that time some residents have moved out of Normandy.

PLEASE SEE TESTS, 1

1992

Trailer park closed for health violations

Residents abruptly relocated from site in Gibsonton because of sewer problems.

EAST BAY BREEZE

3

BY BOB SMITH
EAST BAY BREEZE

After years of health department violations and unsanitary conditions, a mobile home park in Gibsonton was closed last week, forcing about 100 residents to find new places to live.

Palm Grove Campsite, 12104 U.S. 41, Gibsonton, has had a history of failing code and health department inspections since April 1987, according to Hillsborough County officials.

But the breakdown of a septic tank system finally forced the county to take action, says Kevin McConnell, director of the county's code enforcement department. Puddles of raw sewage dotted the park and piles of trash surrounded several trailers.

The park has changed ownership several times since fines were levied starting in November 1990. McConnell said the park has been brought into minimum compliance several times.

The county health department director Jordan Lewis said the sewer system, based on a central septic tank and three pumping stations, finally failed to contain the sewage.

About 100 people lived in 33 mobile homes. The homes ranged from 40-foot mobile homes to 8-foot models that fit in the back of a pickup truck. Some residents had lived in the park for years while others were staying there until they found somewhere else to live.

By Thursday afternoon, just hours before the deadline for people to move, many trailers were already gone. County social worker Leo Morejon set up shop at a rickety table un-

relocate. Many were looking for some place to relocate their trailers, but others were angry at being thrown out on such short notice.

"They gave us 48 hours to get out or (said) we'd go to jail," long-time resident Carl Cagle said. "I've got 15 years worth of life here. How am I going to move it in 48 hours?"

Other residents were upset about what they said were "Gestapo" tactics of telling them to move out or go to jail. But there was more than enough notice, according to Lewis.

"We've been telling them action was going to be taken," Lewis says. "We've had county people in there since Monday to help them find someplace to move. And it has been in Spanish and English."

The county asked a judge for the order to close the park because a recent inspection showed raw sewage on the ground. Contamination in the water around the park was very high and there is a risk of hepatitis with sewage contamination, Lewis said.

"I've had hepatitis B," said resident Ray Potter. "We moved in here two months ago and we were already looking for another place to live. I don't want Hepatitis A."

But long-time resident Mary Morton thought something under-handed was going on.

"They just want to close this park," she said. "I lived in another park where my daughter caught hepatitis and they didn't close it. No one here has caught anything and they are throwing us out on two days notice."



County social worker Leo Morejon, seated, helps trailer park residents at Palm Grove Campsite in Gibsonton relocate because the park was closed for health department violations.

By Bob Smith East Bay Breeze



Puddles of raw sewage make the Palm Grove Campsite trailer park in Gibsonton too dangerous for residents and had contaminated nearby creeks, officials said.

By Bob Smith East Bay Breeze

1992

Emissions repairs cheap for some, costly to others

By JANE KIDWELL
Tribune Staff Writer

4/2/92
OLDSMAR — New spark plugs, timing adjustments and replaced air filters were among the most common remedies for vehicles failing emissions inspections in Florida's six smoggiest counties during the past year, survey results released Wednesday show.

And more than one-third of the repairs needed to make a car pass cost less than \$50, said 8,499 of 21,916 motorists in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

Then again, 4,595 of those motorists, or 21 percent, said they spent more than \$200 on repairs. Those motorists, on average, spent \$673.

The results were compiled from forms motorists filled out on the back of their failed inspection reports, said Carlos Thomas, who manages the state's emissions testing program in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Thomas works for Gordon-Darby Inc. of Louisville, Ky., which has a contract with the state to run the program here.

A public opinion telephone poll commissioned by Gordon-Darby six months into the program found similar results.

Wednesday marked the first anniversary of the program, which is aimed at reducing smog in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Duval, Palm Beach, Broward and Dade counties. The state started the program after being ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up the air or face losing federal highway money. Cars and small trucks made after 1974 must be inspected for the registration to be renewed each year.

In Hillsborough, 467,900 vehicles passed their first \$10 inspection from the beginning of the program last April to the end of February, state Bureau of Emissions Control figures show. Another 86,742 failed.

In Pinellas, 494,751 vehicles passed, and 78,815 failed.

Dwight Davis, assistant bureau chief at the state emissions office in Tallahassee, said the state granted 909 hardship exemptions in Hillsborough and Pinellas to motorists who could prove that they couldn't afford the repairs needed to make

Emission repairs

Emission repair costs for Hillsborough and Pinellas

- Repairs costing less than \$50: 39 percent
- Repairs costing \$50-\$99: 19 percent
- Repairs costing \$100-\$149: 12 percent
- Repairs costing \$150-\$200: 9 percent
- Repairs costing more than \$200: 21 percent

Most common types of repairs needed to pass emissions inspections

HILLSBOROUGH

1. Idle mixture adjustment
2. Idle speed adjustment
3. Spark plugs and/or wires
4. Initial timing adjustment
5. Air filter

PINELLAS

1. Idle mixture adjustment
2. Idle speed adjustment
3. Initial timing adjustment
4. Spark plugs and/or wires
5. Air filter

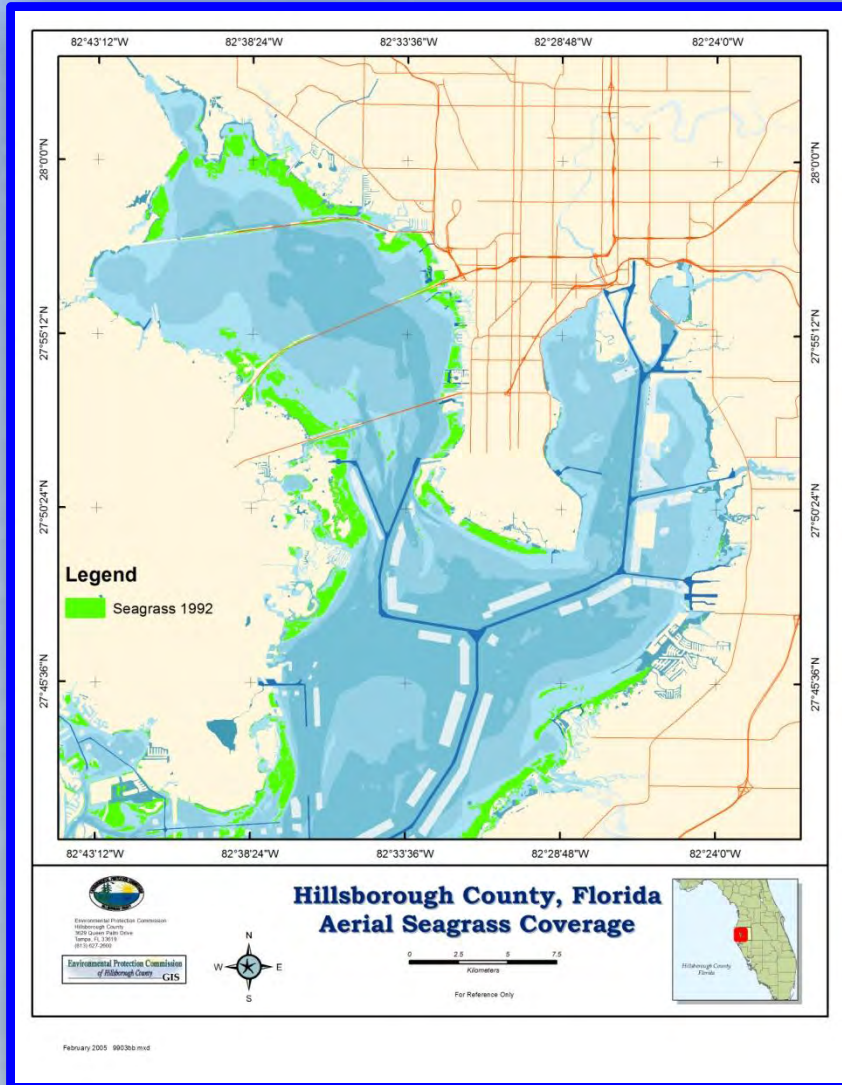
their vehicle pass the test this year. He said that 39 percent of those who failed because extra repairs don't own ve-

Another two counties spending more successfully. Davis said that more than half of those who failed had repairs and were reduced but still failed this year, those who pass for registration.

The most common repairs for those who did have them repaired, and who turned in the repair form when their vehicles were retested, included idle mixture adjustments, idle speed adjustments, timing adjustments, spark plug or wire changes, and air filter replacements.



Tampa Bay and its Watershed



1992 Seagrass
acres 25,753

2012 Seagrass
acres 32,897

Net increase = 7,144



Exceedances of Annual Chlorophyll-A Targets Since 1992

Old Tampa Bay – 7

Hillsborough Bay – 3

Middle Tampa Bay – 3

Lower Tampa Bay - 3

Wetland Mitigation Compliance Rates

1992- 72%

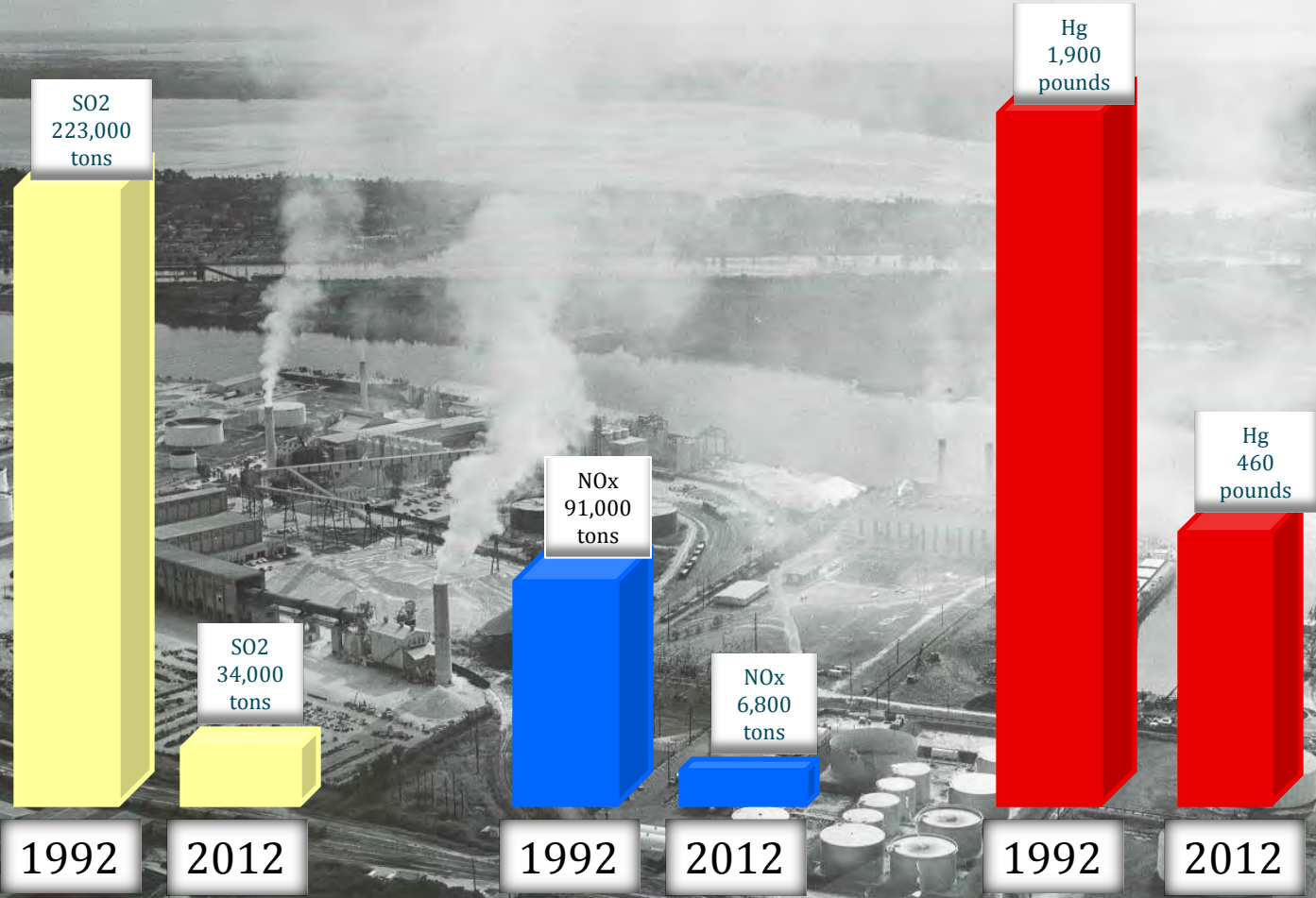
2012 - 93%



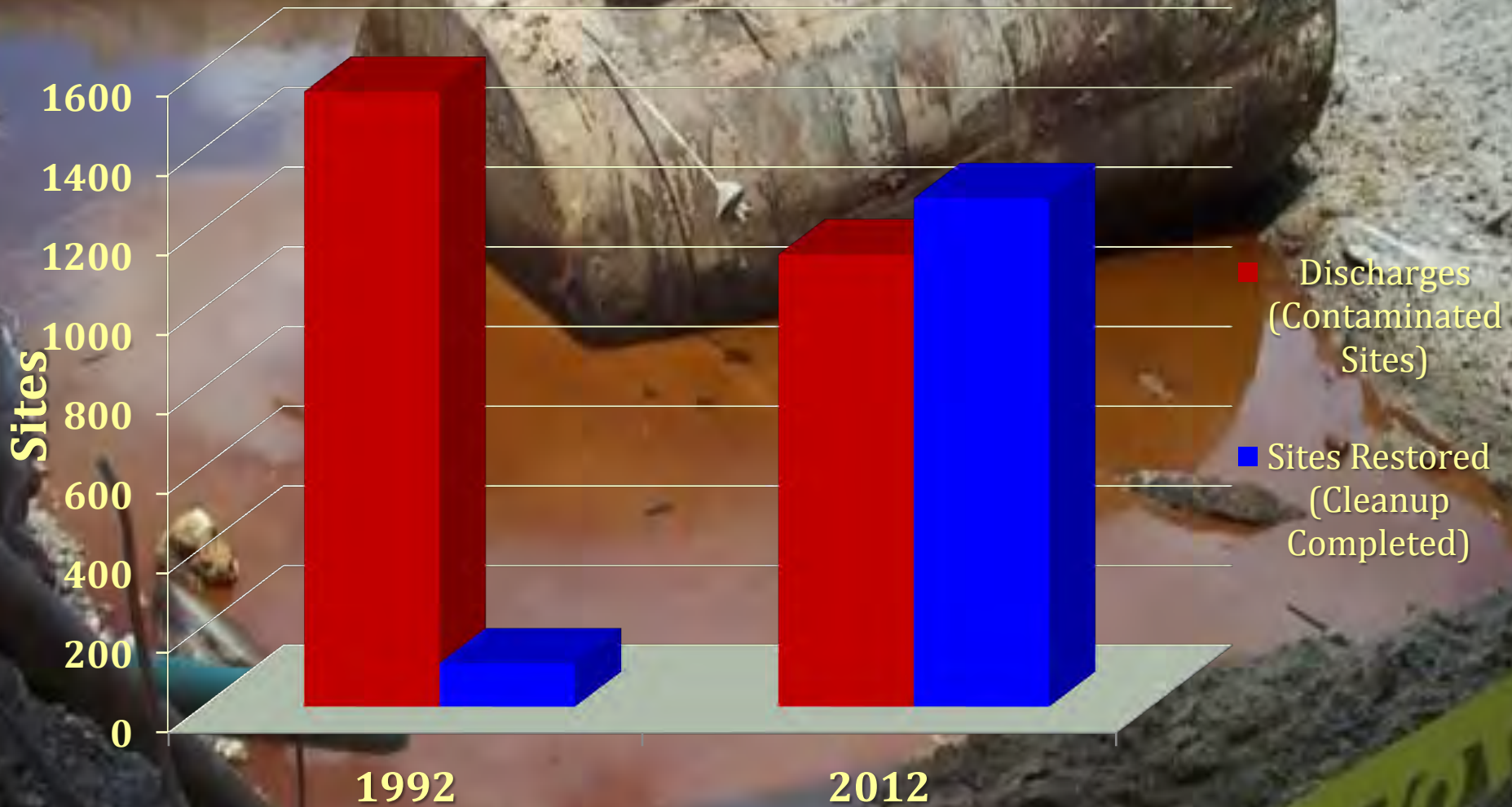
August 11, 1972

Air Quality

Amount of Pollution



Soils/ Groundwater



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M & B Products Site Clean Up

Before



Today



- ❁ Ceased on-site discharges by connecting to the City of Tampa Sanitary Sewers
- ❁ Assessing groundwater contamination for any remedial clean up

EPA Grant Awarded to EPC to Study Wetland Mitigation Success Rates

- * \$227,000 grant for 2-year study
- * Looks at mitigation areas and what makes them successful



Failed Mitigation



Successful Mitigation

Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition



Mission is to advance the nation's economic, environmental and energy security by supporting local decisions to reduce petroleum consumption



EPC's Tanks Compliance Verification Program



- ❁ Took leadership role in the Legislature on budgeting issues
- ❁ First in State to accept regionalized approach (sub-contracted with Manatee County)
- ❁ Received highest audit score ever of 94.95 out of 100 with less staff than previous years

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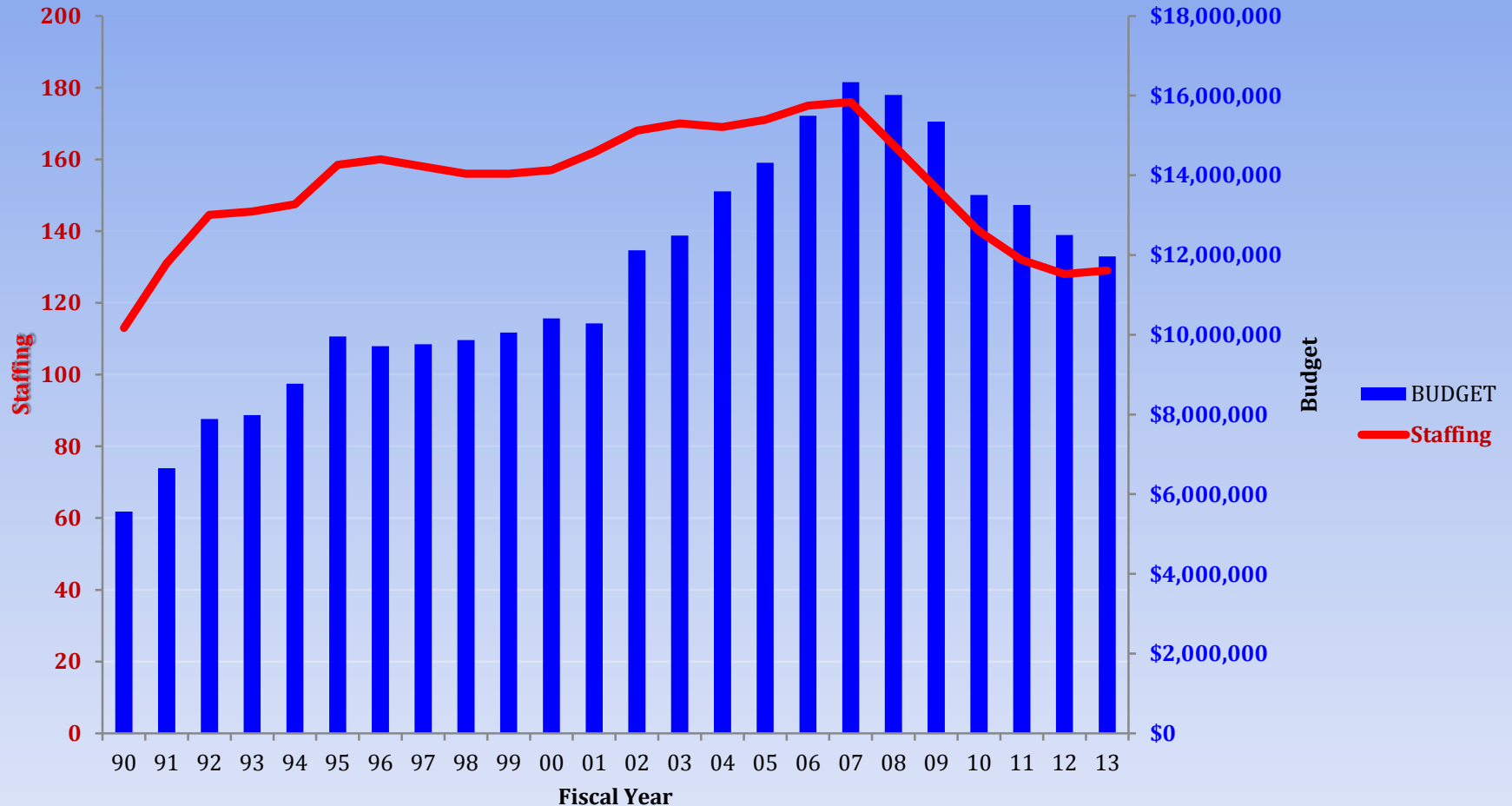
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Historical Look at EPC's Budget & Staffing



Program Changes Over the Last Twenty Years

Ended:

- HIMP
- Freon Program
- Roadside Pullovers
- Industrial Stormwater Verification Program
- Duplicative Local Fees through Delegation



Added:

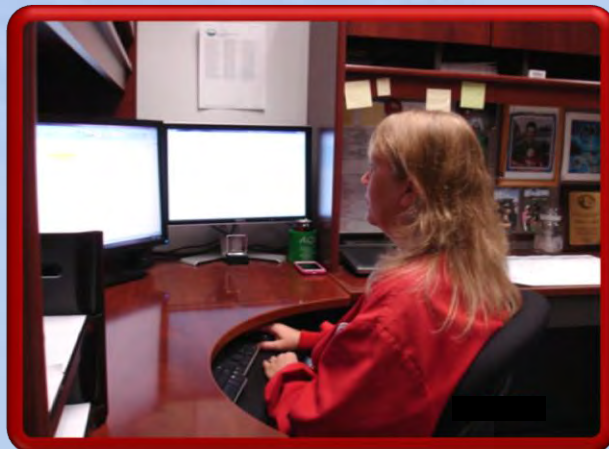
- Benthic & Air Toxics Monitoring
- Bio-Watch Program



Program Changes (continued)

- ✧ Modified through Technology:

- ✧ Increased field inspector's productivity by 21%
- ✧ Automated Air Monitoring is 30% more efficient
- ✧ Contracted out for specialized software development cutting IT staff by 40%



- ✧ Adapted: Office of Sustainability



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Strategic Planning at EPC

- ❁ Sterling Management Format
- ❁ Mission, Vision, Values
- ❁ Strategic Plan with Performance Measures
- ❁ Individual Action Plans for Each Initiative
- ❁ Challenge Application for Organizational Audit



Other 2012 Initiatives

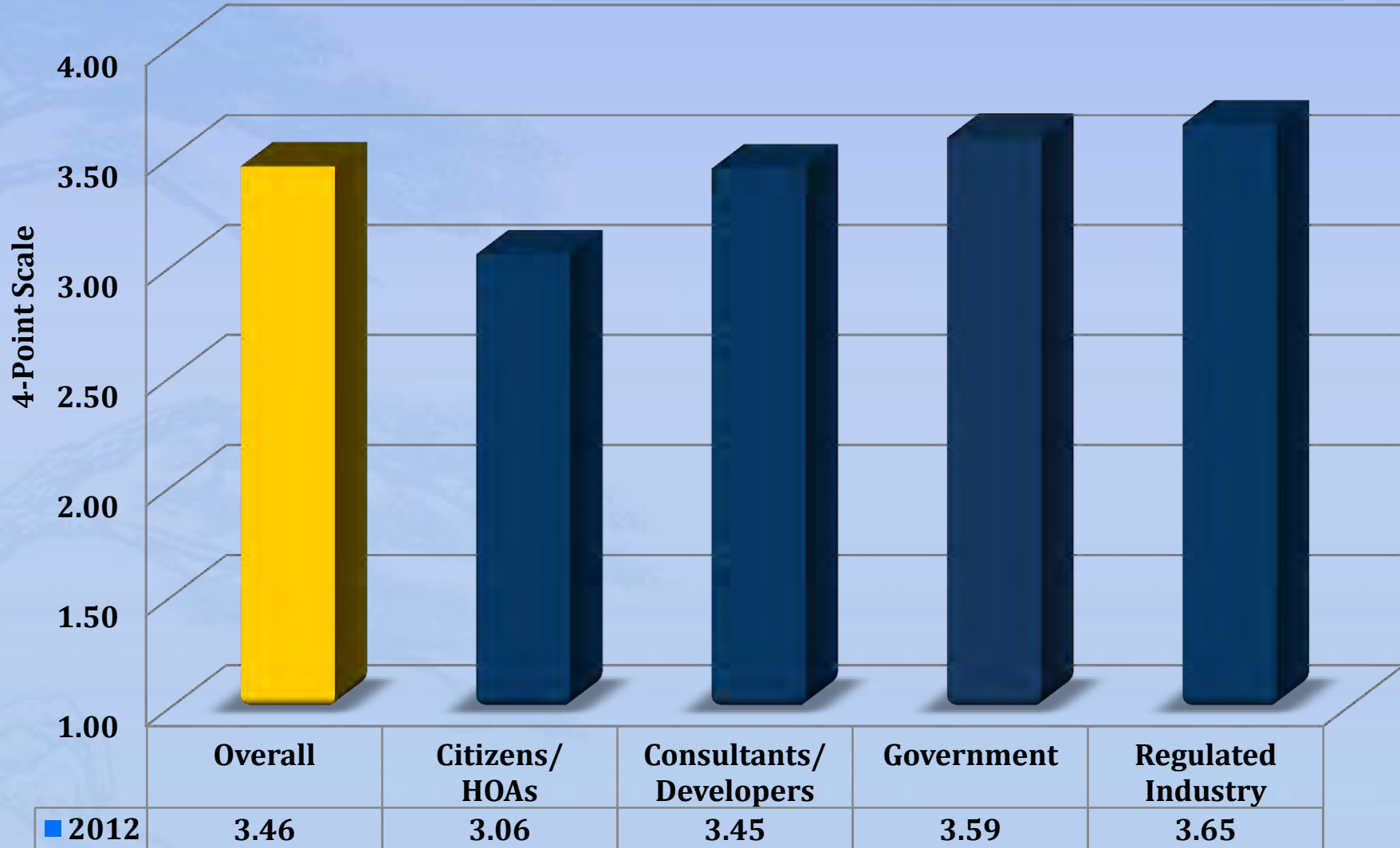
- Rule Efficiency Project
- Grant Writing SOP Project
- Performance Measures

Measure	2011	Goal	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	2012 YTD
Delegated Permitting	36 days	< 36 days	42 days	35 days	37 days	38 days
Local Permitting	28 days	< 28 days	24 days	18 days	23 days	21 days
Timely Compliance	90%	≥ 90%	92%	94%	93%	93%
Timely Complaint Investigation	99%	≥ 99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Timely Enforcement Resolution	62%	≥ 67%	43%	75%	71%	61%



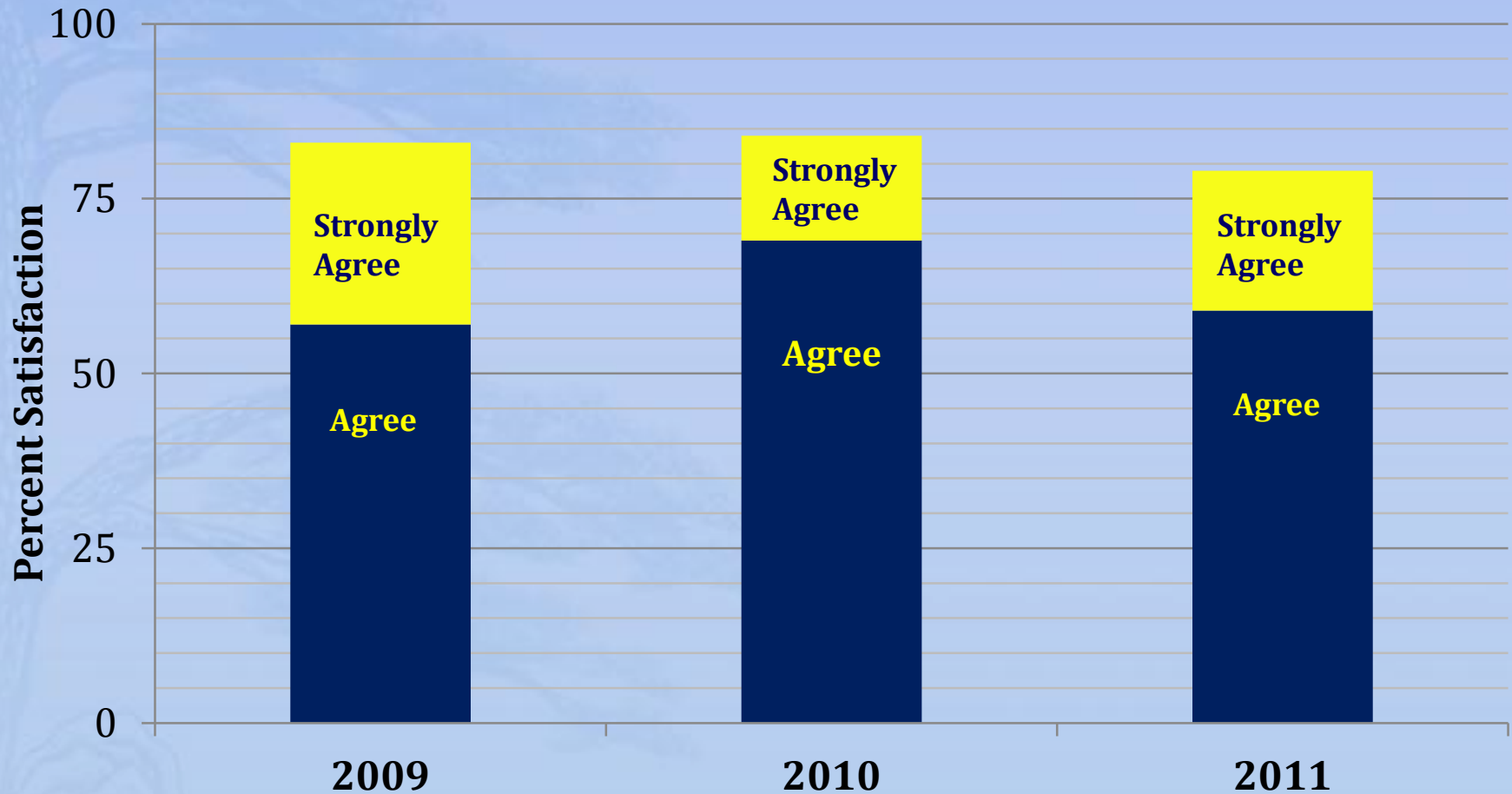
2012 Customer Survey

Effectiveness Meeting Mission



Employee Survey

Overall Satisfaction



2012 Acknowledgements

- ❁ Energy Management & Sustainability Workgroup
- ❁ Business and Environmental Advisory Groups
- ❁ Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee
- ❁ County Administrator Mike Merrill and his Staff
- ❁ SWFMD, FDEP, & EPA
- ❁ EPC Board



