

Integrated Waste Management

Forging New Partnerships with Local Universities

By Lauren Romanazzi

ESD STAFF MEMBERS are expanding their leadership abilities and sharing their passion for the environment with the university community. In December 2014, staff from the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) and Watershed divisions attended final student presentations for San José State University's Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISE) Senior Design Projects. The presentations were the culmination



IWM staff collaborates with staff and students from the SJSU ISE projects.

of a semester-long partnership between ISE students and ESD.

Each ISE project provides an opportunity for a small team of senior bachelor's degree students to study, evaluate, and recommend strategies to reduce costs, improve quality, and provide improved information and control of ESD operations. Previous ESD projects with this class have included evaluating Watershed's laboratory inventorying processes and plastic bag monitoring methodology and data.

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~ Jo Zientek, IWM deputy director

Throughout the fall 2014 semester, ESD employees **Lauren Romanazzi** (assistant environmental services specialist, or ESS), **Jerry Nelson** (associate ESS), **Cecilia Rios** (supervising ESS), **Andrea Case** (ESS), and **Liz Neves** (ESS) served as sponsors for two ISE student teams performing data analysis, one on the Residential Street Sweeping program, and the other on trash hot spots along creeks. The street sweeping project team used advanced Excel functionality to deduce a mismatch rate of 8 percent, and recommended that staff conduct an annual acceptance sample to determine whether the dataset should be rejected and updated. ISE teaching staff appreciates ESD's involvement in their program and encourages additional project ideas for upcoming semesters.

In a separate university-related project in November 2014, Jo and **Abigail Shull**, (associate ESS), presented and teleconferenced with Stanford University's International Urbanism course participants, including professors and students in Beijing, China. They introduced San José's Zero Waste goals and projects for a requested presentation on municipal waste. IWM is partnering again with

Stanford in winter 2015 as part of the Sustainable Cities course. **Alana Rivadeneyra**, associate ESS, prepared a proposal that was accepted for student assistance examining the HHW program and creating community engagement strategies to increase

participation in underserved San José neighborhoods. The impact of this university partnership is expected to increase HHW appointments and reduce household hazardous waste (HHW) pollutants in the environment. *



Abigail Shull (first from left) and Jo Zientek (second from left) share waste management strides and strategies with Stanford University's International Urbanism class with Beijing, China by teleconferencing.

Helping Out

#Stormageddon Response

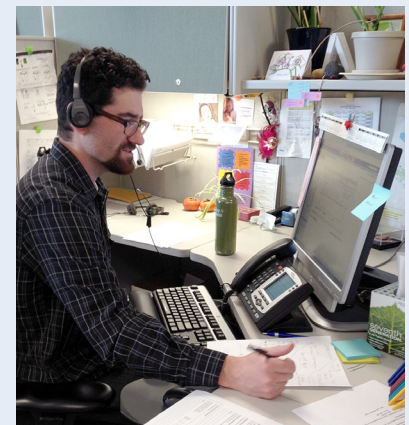
The Bay Area storm on December 11 wreaked havoc and caused flooding and downed trees. Alviso — near sea level — experienced mild flooding. In response to this and the threat of severe flooding, the City Manager's Office activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). **Cheryl Wessling** and **Emily Kurth** from ESD's Communications Division, reported to the EOC to assist with emergency public information efforts. Citywide, communication staff are members of the City's Emergency Public Information Officials team, and participate in emergency communication trainings and drills throughout the year. *



Lenka Wright (left), assistant director of communications, leads the City's EOC Communications team during #stormageddon.

Call Center Coverage

Integrated Waste Management staff gave City Hall call center staff a much needed reprieve to attend an IT Department team-building event during the afternoon of December 12th. The IWM staff used their expertise to answer garbage and recycling related calls. Thanks to **Junko Vroman**, **Hahuy Trinh**, **Jon Gire**, **Cecilia Rios**, **Teresa Curiel**, **Diana Mullenix**, **Harjinder Mavi**, and **Tony Cravens** for helping out! *



Jon Gire, residential services specialist, takes a call.