

Susan Sakaki

Sustainability and Pollution Prevention
Regulatory Compliance
Environmental Auditing
Environmental Management Systems
Communication & Training

REPRESENTATIVE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Susan Sakaki has worked in the environmental management field for 30 years. She is experienced in regulatory compliance and auditing, with a broad understanding of the regulatory framework (air, water, solid and hazardous materials/waste management laws) as well as the planning programs (NEPA, EMS). She also offers expertise in strategic planning, meeting facilitation, communication and public outreach, and training. Recent project work has focused on pollution prevention, green business operations and sustainability.

Environmental Program Development and Management. As a manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ms. Sakaki was involved in implementation of new regulatory programs, and the coordination of multi-state, multi-media programs. In addition, her private sector experience includes a wide range of environmental program development projects.

Pollution Prevention Program for Business

Serves as consultant to the Alameda County Green Business Program (GBP), promoting environmental excellence by certifying business that practice pollution prevention and resource conservation. Provides technical assistance on environmental management and pollution prevention issues (including toxics reduction, IPM, automotive fluids recycling) to a variety of businesses including vehicle maintenance facilities, hotels, restaurants, printing facilities, landscapers, and wineries. This work entails working with the business community as well as City and County elected officials, local regulatory agency staff throughout Alameda County. Represents the GBP on Oakland's Zero Waste Initiative, Oakland's Business Service Organization task force, Mayor's Task Force for Sustainable Berkeley, and other local community organizations.

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Serves as EMS consultant to several public agencies including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), City of San Jose, Sonoma County Water Agency, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. With each organization, the development of the Environmental Management System (EMS) as prescribed by the ISO 14001 Standard is adapted to the infrastructure and culture of each organization. EMS tasks have included conducting initial gap analysis, developing the implementation strategy and detailed workplan, conducting EMS training, facilitating the team meetings, assisting in the documentation, and conducting conformance audits. As needed, additional services are provided, including workshops on pollution prevention and sustainability.

School District Waste Reduction Program

Under contract to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), with a team of consultants, completed a study on waste reduction strategies for public school districts in California. Developed audit protocol and checklists, training CIWMB staff, participated in school district audits, designed priority action ranking system and assisted in the compilation of findings for the Board. All key operations and activities were reviewed, including food service, landscape maintenance, energy usage, maintenance and construction, purchasing and waste disposal/recycling. The study focused on the waste management practices of the school districts, analyzing the process flows and organizational roles of the administrative offices.

Compliance Management. The following is a selected sample of the compliance management projects Ms. Sakaki has conducted or directed:

Regulatory Compliance Audits

Conducted regulatory compliance audits of numerous commercial and industrial facilities including utilities, pharmaceutical companies, research laboratories, oil and gas production facilities, and manufacturing facilities. Audits include review of permits and plans, inspections of operations, interviews with key personnel and managers, and completion of audit report including findings and regulatory citations.

Hazardous Materials Management Plans

Updated Hazardous Materials Management Plans (HMBPs) for several City of Oakland facilities. Conducted inspections of facilities, checking compliance with Fire Code and hazardous materials management requirements. Updated emergency response procedure, site plans, evacuation plans and other key elements of the HMBP. HMBP work also conducted for several industrial facilities including agricultural chemical formulator, biotechnology company, and research laboratory.

Norcal Waste Management Compliance Management System

Assisted Norcal Waste Management Systems in developing and documenting the Compliance Management System, a tool for planning and tracking environmental activities and accomplishments. Assisted in the implementation of the program in the ten operating companies throughout California, including technical meetings and worker training.

Environmental, Health and Safety Programs

Updated the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) programs for several biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms in the Bay Area. Updated plans included the Hazardous Materials Management Plan, Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Hazard Communication Plan, and Emergency Response Plan. Delivered the employee briefing on the EHS program. Also worked with consultant teams in completing laboratory closures for several biotechnology facilities.

Communication and Training. Ms. Sakaki is an experienced trainer and facilitator, with experience dating back to her 11 years with the USEPA where she oversaw the EPA-State policy agreements and participated in public hearings. Her more recent communication and training experience includes:

Sustainability Training

Designed and delivered workshops on sustainability for NUMMI, a major auto assembly plant in Fremont, California. The goal of the workshop was twofold. One goal was to inform the line managers about the connection with global issues of climate change and natural resource depletion and their work at the plant. The second goal was to generate ideas and actions in resource efficiency and pollution prevention that could be implemented. In the problem solving segment, participants came up with several opportunities for improvement and action plans, many of them potentially yielding significant cost savings for the plant.

Sustainability Workshops for Small Business

Conducts workshop on “Operating a Green Business” as part of the Sustainable Business Management series sponsored by the East Bay Small Business Development Center. The workshop covers waste reduction and recycling, energy and water conservation, and pollution prevention, with specific and practical best practices for the small to mid-sized business. This workshop series has been conducted in the San Francisco Bay Area three times, with classes at capacity.

Communication Training at University of California

Developed curriculum for “Communication Essentials for Environmental Managers,” for the University of California UC Berkeley Extension Program. Since 1995, co-teach this graduate level interactive course to environmental professionals from the private and public sectors. Course includes segments on communication planning, risk communication, media relations, and public meetings.

Communication Strategy for Wetlands Restoration

Designed the communication strategy for public outreach and education for the California Coastal Conservancy’s restoration planning for 15,000 acres of salt ponds in the San Francisco South Bay. Completed an overall communication strategy, involving stakeholder identification and analysis, project mission definition, message clarification, and analysis of communication modes of delivery. The goals of the restoration project are to provide wildlife habitat, flood management and recreation access; the strategy addresses the challenges of meeting the needs and concerns of these different stakeholders. Worked with agencies and NGOs to build a network of support for the project and launched the first round of public meetings.

Hazardous Waste Management Training for DTSC

Conducted hazardous waste management training in the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Compliance School program. Course content included regulatory requirements for hazardous waste generators; classroom activities were highly interactive and focused on teaching problem solving approaches.

EDUCATION

M.P.A., Public Policy and Administration, Golden Gate University, San Francisco, 1982

M.A., Curriculum and Instruction, University of Oregon, Eugene, 1969

B.A. English, University of Oregon, Eugene, 1968

CERTIFICATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

International Society of Sustainability Professionals

ISO 14001 Auditor (application pending)

Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network

East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Environmental Auditing Roundtable

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

“Green Mandates – How to Reach Your Goals,” Green California Summit and Expo in Sacramento, CA, March 2007

“Sustainability and EMS,” Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference in Tempe, AZ, October 2006

“Value of Environmental Management Systems to Public Entities,” Federal Network for Sustainability January 2005, Western Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable September 2005, Annual Tribal Conference October 2005

“Overview of Environmental Management Systems,” University of California Davis, October 2004, May 2005

“Green Landscaper Practices,” IPM Symposium in Oakland, CA and NCTLX EXPO in San Jose, CA, February 2003

“Environmental Compliance Management Systems,” Western Environment and Business Initiative, April 1998.

“Advanced Auditing Techniques,” Environmental Compliance Monitor Seminar, April 1996.

“Environmental Compliance Audits,” Executive Enterprises Federal Facilities Compliance Seminar, Sacramento, October 1991 and October 1992.