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Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

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Riverside County Hazardous Materials Branch earns distinguished statewide award

An alliance of agencies that protects Californians from hazardous waste has named Riverside County's Hazardous Materials Branch as its outstanding agency for 2018.

Californians are protected from hazardous waste and materials by a "unified program" that guides consistency statewide on administrative requirements, permits, inspections and enforcement. CalEPA oversees implementation of the unified program and 81 certified unified program agencies (CUPAs) that are operated by local governments. Those agencies apply regulatory standards put in

place by five different state agencies. The regulated hazardous wastes include chemicals used in manufacturing, oil waste from auto repair shops, and storage tanks such as those at gas stations.

The statewide alliance is the Certified Unified Program Agencies Forum Board. This week, Riverside County's Environmental Health Department received the Outstanding CUPA Agency Award for 2018 at the CUPA industry group annual meeting.

"This is a prestigious award and recognizes our programs as being the best in the state," said Steve Van Stockum, director of environmental health.

The county's Hazardous Materials branch recently implemented a business-plan automation project that encourages businesses to comply by enabling them to file their plans online. The award also recognized the branch's excellent training program and involvement in the CUPA Forum Board and associated technical advisory groups, through which the branch shares innovations with other providers in the industry.

For more information on Riverside County's Hazardous Materials branch visit: <http://www.rivcoeh.org/HazMat>