

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON COACHELLA VALLEY HEALTH

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BY: MIKE SINGER

PALM DESERT, Calif. - Dr. Glen Grayman, Board President of HARC, will report on environmental aspects of Eastern Riverside County's community's health. Drawing on the original HARC (Health Assessment Resource Center) survey, the Community Health Monitor, of 3,500 households in Eastern Riverside County (Calimesa to Blythe) as well as other sources, Dr. Grayman's report will focus on asthma, physical activity and respondents' concerns about livable communities, including such factors as air quality, noise, parks and transportation. The presentation will be in the Indian Wells Theater located at 37-500 Cook Street, between Gerald Ford and Frank Sinatra Drives. Admission is \$3.00 and includes parking. Students are free with ID.

Eastern Riverside County residents were asked questions via the telephone related to health status, behavioral risks, quality of life issues, access, and utilization of services. A total of 172 questions comprised the adult survey; 136 for children. The complete HARC community health report was released to the community on the Palm Desert Campus on February 13, 2008. HARC was formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 35 public and private healthcare agencies. It conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501(c)3 organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities that contract with the agency for customized public health research. HARC aims to deliver healthcare providers, cities, government agencies, and private interests a snapshot of public health in eastern Riverside County.

This event is co-sponsored by the Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability on the Palm Desert Campus. This newly formed Institute works to **improve the quality of life in the Coachella Valley through research, education, and advocacy on issues pertaining to environmental sustainability.**

Dr. Grayman will be available after the presentation for questions from the audience. For more information, please contact Mike Singer at the Palm Desert Campus Office of Public Affairs at (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107 or visit <http://pdc.csusb.edu>.