

# City of Vernon Health Department: Implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

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# Background

- Before 2001 Vernon's stormwater program was:
  - Not a pro-active program
  - Limited in scope
  - Passive approach (educational pamphlets, response to complaints and incidents)



# SWRCB Mandate

- Promulgated in December, 2001
- Required municipal stormwater programs in:
  - Public education
  - Construction
  - Illicit discharge and illicit connection elimination



# City Departments and Primary Storm Water Pollution Prevention Functions

- Health Department
  - Issue enforcement orders for illicit discharges
  - Distribute educational materials to business operators
  - Inspect anti-pollution devices and bmp's
- Community Services & Water Department
  - Maintain streets and storm drain systems
  - Inform health department of illicit discharges upon discovery
  - Permit fixed anti-pollution devices
- Fire Department
  - Respond to releases and prevent entry into storm drain system

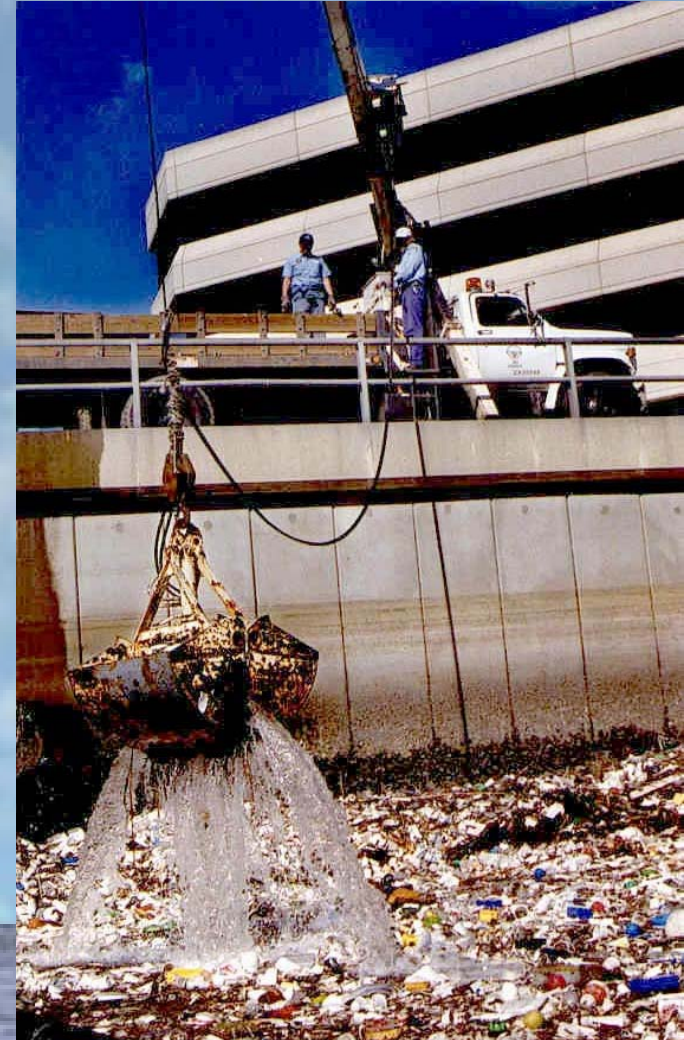
# For the City of Vernon...

- Health Department took leading role
  - Participated actively in planning City strategy
  - Provided support in development of policies
  - Attended planning meetings and seminars
- Identified as most cost effective and efficient implementation
  - Environmental and public health knowledge, expertise, and experience
  - Existing regulatory inspection programs (Food, Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, Water Quality, etc.)



# Vernon Health Department Goals

- Comply with mandate
- Improve quality of stormwater
- Create a comprehensive and efficient program
- Merge stormwater activities seamlessly into existing workload



# Highlights of New Stormwater Program

- 2003 – Integrated stormwater program with existing EH programs (Hazardous Materials / Food)
- Identified businesses with stormwater concerns
- Developed new stormwater inspection report
- Started business assistance program
- Developed user-friendly construction guidance documents and construction plan check program
- Went above and beyond mandated requirements (e.g., exceeded inspection frequency requirement, addressed vector control issues)

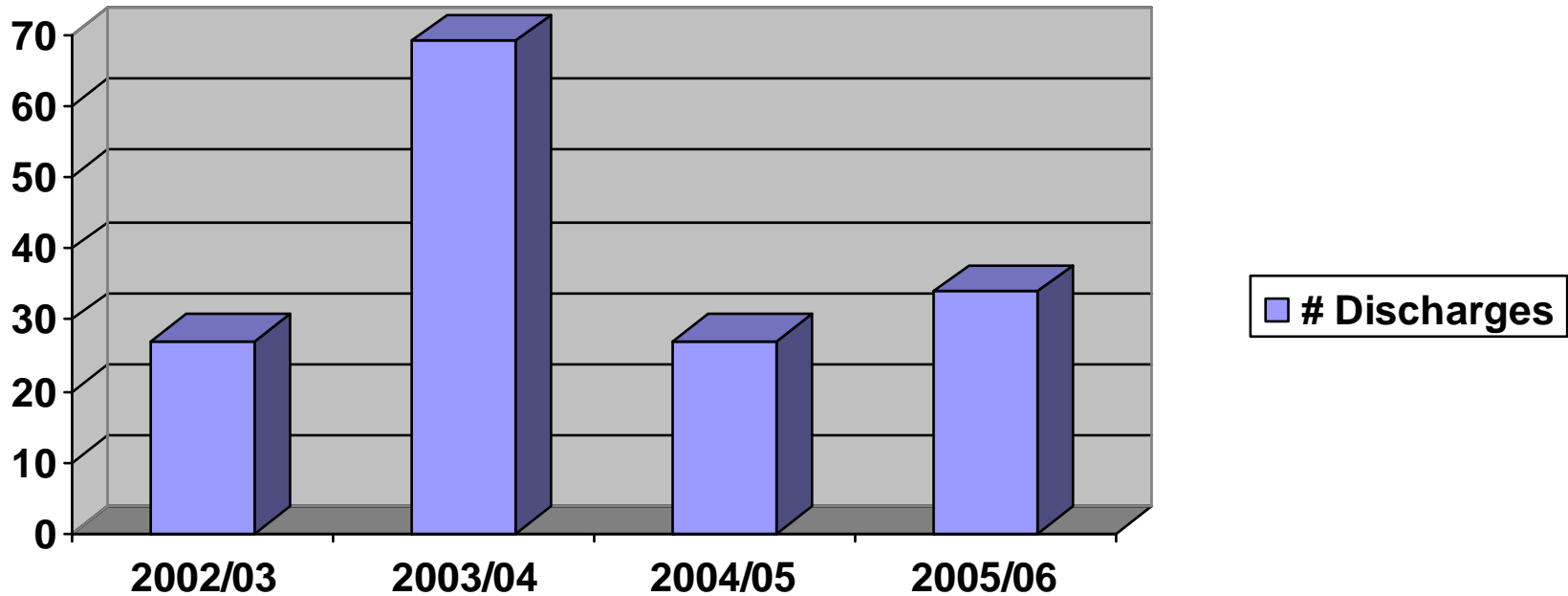
# Results

- Potential exposure of stormwater to contaminants greatly reduced
- Over 99% of 900 plus facilities inspected implemented necessary BMPs; non compliant 1% were referred to SWRCB
- Increased Vernon community's knowledge of stormwater quality protection
- Estimated \$40,000 per year hourly salary cost avoidance



# Achievement: Discharges Reduced

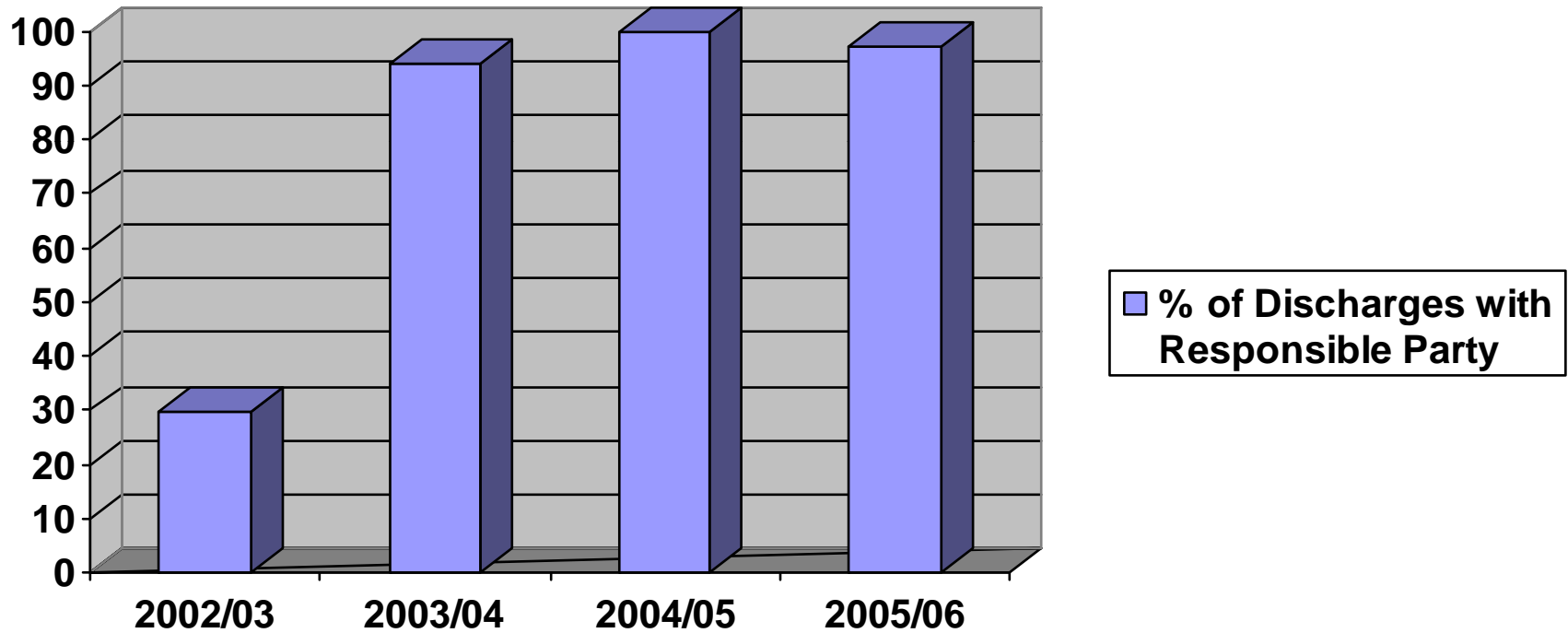
**\*Chart 1 - Number of Illegal Discharges by Fiscal Year**



\*Reporting criteria changed from 2004/05 to 2005/06 fiscal year.

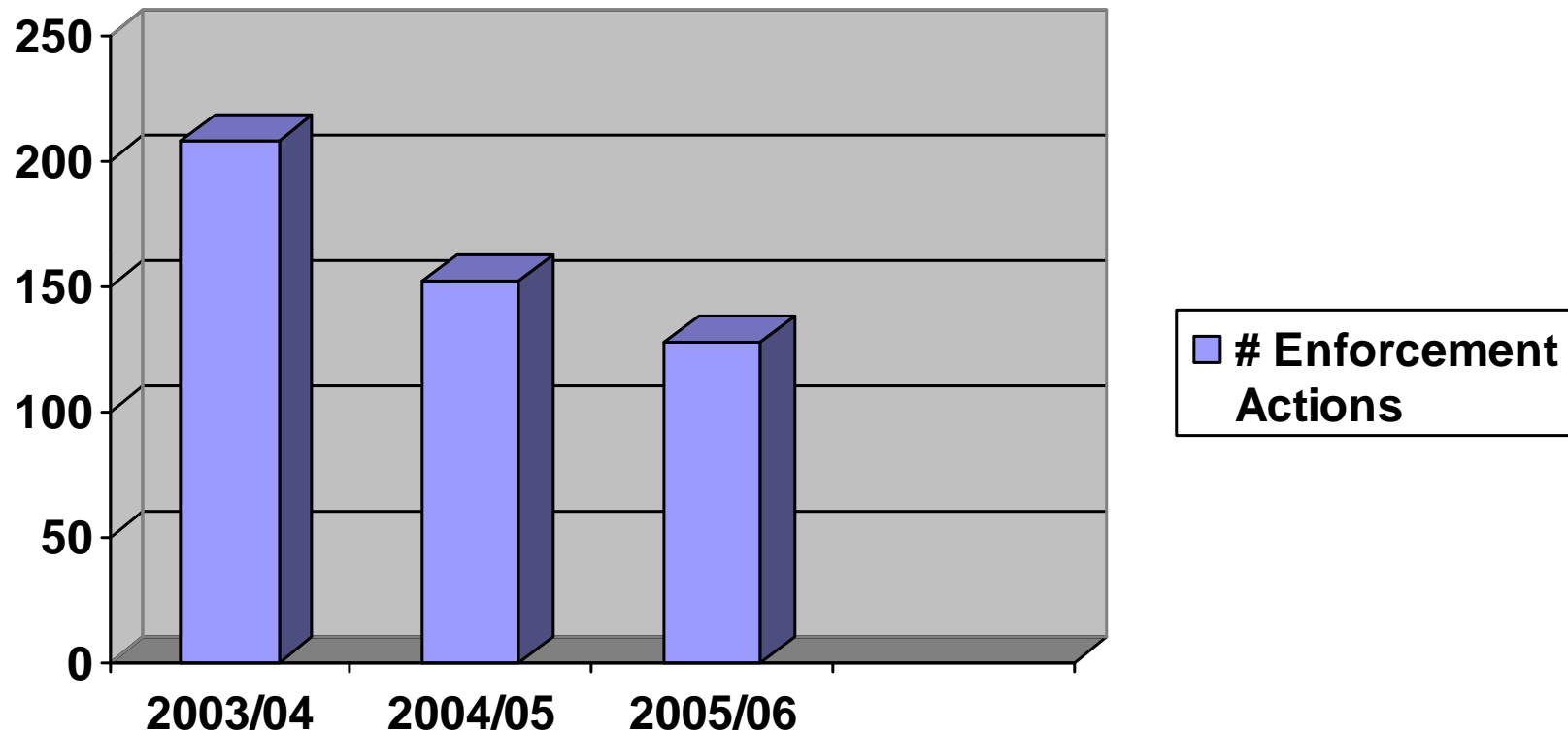
# Achievement: Improved Surveillance & Community Awareness

## Chart 2 – Illicit Discharges with a Responsible Party by Fiscal Year



# Achievement: Increased Compliance

## \*\*Chart 3 – Enforcement Actions by Fiscal Year



\*\*Data not tracked for 2002/03 fiscal year.

# In summary, Vernon has...

- Developed a complete, comprehensive stormwater program
- Met or exceeded the State's regulatory stormwater requirements
- Helped improve the quality of stormwater
- Enhanced Health Dept. image internally and externally
  - Other City departments and administration recognize seamless implementation of complex regulatory program
  - Regulated businesses acknowledge effective outreach, communication, and enforcement efforts that:
    - + Simplified compliance
    - + Maintained level playing field