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Information Release Authorization Form

Thursday, November 19, 2015

- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
- Televisions

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Ameko Pato or Deputy Director, Faamao Asalele, or Tumau Lokeni, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304.

Fa'afetai lava.

- Governor's Office, ASG Weekly
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV FM 103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM 92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM 104.7 Radio Station

Title/Heading:

“Environment Week (November 9-13, 2015): ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE”

Approved by: 
Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: 19 Nov 2015

PRESS RELEASE



The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) celebrated its annual Environment Week from November 9 – 13, 2015 with the theme “**ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**”. AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato said, “this theme is appropriate as we as a small island community need to start understanding the harsh reality of climate change and start planting the seed now on how to be resilient as a community in combating the impacts of climate change in the environment, public health, and in our daily lives.”

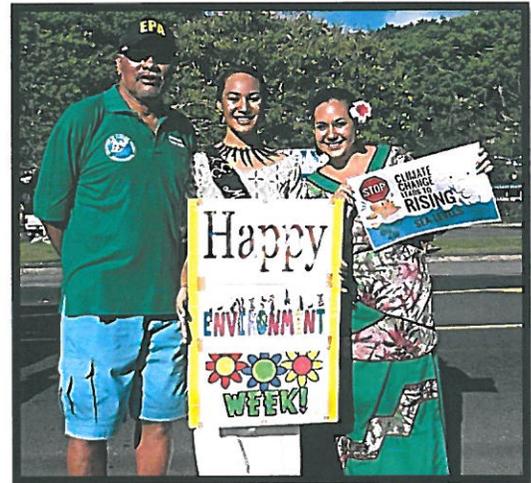
In his Environment Week Proclamation, Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga emphasized that American Samoa’s air, land and water are the basic ingredients upon which life depends, and it is proper to celebrate our environment, to promote awareness, and to appreciate its value and contribution to our daily lives. The Governor’s proclamation also stated that, although there is overwhelming evidence of climate change occurring both globally and regionally which unique and increased risks to the environment and our health, these risks can be reduced through preparations, planning, surveillance, and taking simple personal and collective actions in educating our people about climate change and its impact on our health and the environment.



AS-EPA Director Pato shared his hope that the week's activities will remind and reinforce the importance of the environment in our daily lives and, more importantly, our significant role in taking care of God's gift for our enjoyment and for future generations.

AS-EPA's theme falls in line with the Obama Administration's climate change policy. President Obama's recently remarked, "Climate change is no longer some far-off problem; it is happening here, it is happening now." The President warned that unless more is done to reduce carbon pollution, "we will condemn our children to a planet beyond their capacity to repair: submerged countries, abandoned cities, fields no longer growing, ... we're not moving fast enough."

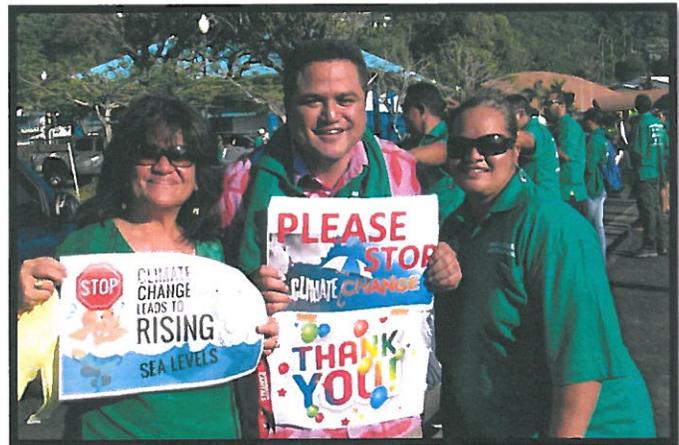
The 2015 Environment Week featured an array of awareness activities hosted by AS-EPA and its partners, targeting schools, traditional leaders, and the community. These activities included a "WAVE" at Suigaula o le Atuvasa Beach to officially launch the event. The **Climate Change Task Force** also convened, chaired by Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) Director Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga. Representatives of various government departments discussed ways the Territory can be resilient in not only protecting critical infrastructure, but also developing a framework for what we can do to adapt to climate change. A **Climate Change Workshop** themed "GREEN VILLAGES" was held to educate our Pulenu'u and traditional leaders on how to be resilient in combating climate change in village settings.



Presentations were delivered by Mrs. Fatima Sauafea-Leau from the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), Mr. Hans Malala from the NOAA Weather Service Pago Pago, Mr. Toni Lavata'i Magalei from the ASCC-CNR, and Ms. Kim Ali'itasi McGuire from DMWR's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG). Lastly, Environment Week concluded with **Arbor Day** spearheaded by the ASCC-CNR in an overall effort to save and plant more trees.



Director Pato extends his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Afioga Ma'oputasi, Mauga T. Asuega, the various ASG directors and schools, especially AS-EPA's key partners for this event: Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA), DMWR, Department of Commerce (DOC), Territorial Energy Office (TEO), Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA), American Samoa National Parks Services (ASNPS), NOAA Fisheries PIRO, NOAA Weather Service Pago Pago, Office of Public Information (OPI – KVZK-TV), Miss American Samoa 2015 – 2016 Suluga Talofa'ali'i Taliau and the MASI Organization, ASCC-CNR/Land Grant, ASPA, DOE, and DPW for their participation, contributions and support for this event.



AS-EPA encourages the people of our Territory to take ownership and pride in taking care of our environment. Climate change is here and it takes our community's involvement to address it by not only talking about it, but taking action. Former President John F. Kennedy once said, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

