LEAD-ABATEMENT GROUP WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday presented a national award to San Diego’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen’s Advisory Task Force, which has helped reduce the heavy metal in local homes.

Task force partners include the Environmental Health Coalition, Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program, City of San Diego Lead Safe San Diego Program, San Diego Housing Commission and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

The partnership has attracted more than $18 million to educate residents and conduct lead-hazard control work in San Diego. More than 250 children under the age of 6 and living in low-income, minority communities have been tested for lead in their blood.

In addition, more than 1,000 homes have been made lead-safe, according to the task force. It also secured funds for training and certifying workers in lead remediation and lead-safe work practices.

“As a result of our partnership, the Children’s Right to Lead-Safety Housing Ordinance was adopted, which ensures that children living in pre-1978 homes are protected from dangers of lead-based paint and dust,” said Diane Takvorian, executive director of Environmental Health Coalition.

Forum planned on border water issues

A “citizens forum” meeting of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission is set for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 16, at Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way in Imperial Beach.

Presentations will address water-quality monitoring in the Pacific Ocean near the South Bay Ocean Outfall, an international watershed initiative for the U.S.-Mexico border, and a current study to determine if Tijuana River flood control levees meet current U.S. standards.

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