

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Hazardous Materials Commission

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: Fourth Thursday of every months, 4-6 pm, 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord

Chair: George Smith, Environmental Engineer Seat

Staff: Michael Kent, Contra Costa Health Services

Reporting Period: January-December, 2011

ACTIVITIES

- Received presentation from CalRecycle on Pharmaceutical collection programs
- Received presentation from the Hazardous Materials Program on implementation of the Land Use portion of the Industrial Safety Ordinance
- Received presentation from the State Fire Marshal on pipeline safety
- Received presentation from Hazardous Materials Program on potential changes to Cal/ARP regulations
- Presented findings of Household Hazardous Waste and Brownfield reports to the Board of Supervisors
- Received presentation from Teleosis Institute on Pharmaceutical collection programs
- Investigated trends in Industrial accident root causes
- Received presentation from OEHHA on cumulative impacts methodology
- Reviewed the status of Federal, State and Local Environmental Justice programs
- Received presentation by Public Health Director on County Health Indicators report
- Presented finding of Household Hazardous Waste report to County recycling coordinators
- Received presentation from Office of Emergency Services on Community Warning System
- Received presentation by Central Sanitary District on Pharmaceutical in the environment
- Met with staff from Supervisor Gioia's office to discuss possible HHW collection site in Kensington
- Received presentation from Bay Area Air Quality Management District on Community Risk Reduction Programs
- Met with staff of Environmental Health to discuss unused pharmaceutical collection education strategies
- Reviewed proposal to refurbish oil storage tanks in Pittsburg
- Received presentation by US EPA on Environmental Justice Initiatives
- Met one-on-one with three County Supervisors
- Presented HHW and Brownfield reports to the Contra Costa Council and the Mayor's Conference

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Commission continued to build on the release of their HHW and brownfield reports by having them accepted by the Board of Supervisors and having the Board agree to write a letter to DTSC requesting the changes the Commission recommended to the Envirostor Database. The Commission also presented their findings to the County's recycling coordinators, the Contra Costa Council and the Mayor's conference. The Commission followed up the HHW report by focusing in on pharmaceutical disposal resulting in specific recommendations that will be brought to the Board of Supervisors in 2012. The Commission also did an extensive investigation of efforts to analyze trends in the root causes of industrial accidents to determine if there are potential changes that can be made to the ISO audit process, but found no significant efforts on which to base a recommendation. The Commission continued to meet with each Supervisor one-on-one this year by meeting with three of the Supervisors. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Commission will have to meet with the other two in January. Finally, the Commission continued to educate themselves on a range of emerging issues related to Hazardous Materials by receiving in-depth presentation by outside experts on eleven different topics.

ATTENDANCE/REPRESENTATION

The 13-member Commission has members from organized labor, environmental groups, industry, cities, environmental engineering firms, and the public at large. The Commission has membership from all regions of the County. All seats on the Commission were occupied this year, though one was vacant for part of the year due to resignations. The Commission held 8 meetings this year, as well as 8 meetings of the Operations subcommittee and 8 meetings of the Planning and Policy Development subcommittee. All of the full Commission meetings obtained a quorum, with an average of 9 of the 13 members or their alternates being present at these meetings.

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

No training or certification was provided or conducted.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS YEAR

This year the Commission intends to continue to develop recommendations concerning unused pharmaceutical collection education and work to implement these recommendations; continue to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the brownfield report; and continually evaluate emerging issues, including those related to addressing cumulative impacts and Environmental Justice concerns.