

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION



February 24, 2022

Supervisor Diane Burgis, District 3, Chair
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District 2, Vice Chair
Contra Costa Board of Supervisors,
Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee

Dear Chair Burgis and Vice Chair Andersen:

On behalf of the Hazardous Materials Commission (the Commission), I would like to share with you the results of the survey the Commission conducted late last year with businesses in Contra Costa County that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous waste that may be directly impacted by sea level rise in the future. The 161 businesses sent this survey were identified as using hazardous materials or generating hazardous waste from the records of the County's Hazardous Materials Program. These businesses were determined to be potentially impacted by sea level rise from models developed by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Models predicting 77 inches of sea level rise were used to include businesses in West and Central County, but 83 inches per year in East Contra Costa County due to differences in the modeling that was done for these areas. Our survey was conducted from October 1 – October 22, 2021 and was either mailed to the identified companies or sent to them via e-mail using Survey Monkey.

Only 20 out of 161, or 12%, of the businesses that were sent the survey responded. The Commission has reviewed these results and believes the response rate was too low for them to be able to draw any firm conclusions. The Commission was disappointed in these results, but it still believes the information collected was useful. While the Commission is unclear as to the reason why the response to the survey was so low, the Commission feels this indicates more efforts to educate businesses about these potential impacts, and the actions that could be taken to mitigate them, is warranted.

Therefore, the Commission supports more efforts by the County to educate and engage businesses using hazardous materials or generating hazardous waste about the potential impacts of sea level rise. On September 13, 2021 the Commission wrote to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) concerning the impacts of sea level rise on the storage, use and transportation of hazardous waste and hazardous materials in Contra Costa County (attached). One of the recommendations in that letter (#4) encouraged TWIC to direct County staff to coordinate, and plan with other stakeholders in the County, a summit to begin establishing a County-wide effort to address the potential impacts of sea level rise. The Commission still believes this is an important recommendation to implement.

Members: Fred Glueck, Chair, Tim Bancroft, Jonathan Bash, Marielle Boortz, Don Bristol, Ken Carlson, Mark Hughes, Steven Linsley, Jim Payne, Gabe Quinto, Mark Ross, Treston Shull, George Smith

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This recommendation is also consistent with the recent resolution (2022/52) adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 8, 2022 to support the BCDC-led Bay Adapt Regional Strategy to address sea level rise. The letter of support for the Bay Adapt Regional Strategy said the Board of Supervisors would support the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by concentrating on implementing policies and programs in our county that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to rising water levels, particularly in our frontline communities, and identifying opportunities to fund this work. The Commission believes a County-wide summit supported by the Board of Supervisors would be an excellent way to draw attention to this issue and could be the catalyst needed to get county-wide coordination and planning off the ground. This should be done in coordination with any BCDC-led efforts.

The Commission also believes the other recommendations made in their September 13, 2021 letter should still be implemented. These recommendations could be acted on immediately or could be incorporated into the goals and policies of the County's General Plan and Climate Action Plan that are currently being updated. These other recommendations are also consistent with the Bay Adapt Regional Strategy's goal of connecting local actions to regional policies. The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide this information to you, and will continue to monitor, provide input to and support County efforts to address the impacts of sea level rise on the storage, use and transportation of hazardous waste and hazardous materials in Contra Costa County. Please direct any questions you have to Michael Kent, Executive Assistant to the Hazardous Materials Commission, (925) 250-3227.

Sincerely,



Fred Glueck
Hazardous Materials Commission Chairperson

cc. Dana Brechwald, Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Jody London, Contra Costa County Sustainability Coordinator
Dan Peddycord, Contra Costa Health Services Climate and Health Officer

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