

## **2006 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:** Sabiha Gokcen, Contra Costa Taxpayers Association

**Staff:** Michael Kent, Contra Costa Health Services

**Reporting Period:** January-December 2006

### **ACTIVITIES**

The Commission evaluated the County's response to two major chemical accidents for potential policy changes, reviewed the annual reports on the implementation of the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance for 2005 and 2006.

The Commission received presentations by:

- The County's Public Health Department on multi-lingual public participation in the Industrial Safety Ordinance audit review for General Chemical in Bay Point.
- Tetra Tech on their study of the hazardous materials response capabilities of Contra Costa County.
- Sustainable Moraga on their household battery collection program.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board and the County's Clean Water Program on the Stormwater permitting process.
- CAER on the Community Warning System siren re-sounding policy.
- Jennifer Hernandez on the Polanco Act.
- Jim Kennedy on the Redevelopment Agency's brownfield activities.
- The Department of Toxic Substances Control on Brownfield programs.
- The Red Cross and the Office of Emergency Services on emergency preparedness.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Commission analyzed the County's capacity to evacuate a community in respond to a long-term chemical release in the event of an earthquake or other major disaster, and successfully advocated for the inclusion of a chemical release-triggered evacuation scenario in the Golden Guardian Emergency Response drill. The Commission began a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of brownfield remediation activities in Contra Costa County. The Commission

wrote a letter of support for a household battery collection study grant that was awarded to the Community Development Department. The Commission wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for more environmentally sound methods for decommissioning the surplus ships moored in the Delta. Commission members met individually with members of the Board of Supervisors to brief them on Commission activities and to learn about their issues of concern.

### **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. The Commission held 10 meetings this year, as well as 10 meetings of the Operations subcommittee and 5 meetings of the Planning and Policy Development subcommittee. All of the full Commission meetings obtained a quorum, with an average of 9.5 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 NEXT YEAR**

Next year the Commission intends to continue to evaluate brownfield remediation policies and advocate for increased planning for emergency preparedness for long-term chemical releases. The Commission will also respond to any requests from the Board of Supervisors and continually evaluate emerging issues, including Precautionary Principle and Environmental Justice concerns.