

2007 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-August, 2007

ACTIVITIES

- The Commission evaluated the County's response to one major chemical accident for potential policy changes.
- The Commission surveyed the jurisdictions in the County about their brownfield programs.
- The Commission reviewed the policy on pharmaceutical collection for the regional Household Hazardous Waste facilities.
- The Commission received presentations by:
 - Praxair on their hydrogen pipeline proposal for West County.
 - The Federal Department of Transportation on their pipeline safety program.
 - The Community Development Department on their application of the California Air Resources Board's Land Use Guidelines.
 - The Public Works Department on their efforts to clean up the mercury mine on Mt. Diablo.
 - The Public Health Department on their draft Environmental Justice Guidelines.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Commission continued their efforts to promote additional planning for 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. The Commission continued their comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of brownfield remediation activities in Contra Costa County. The Commission wrote a letter of support for the Public Works Department's efforts to secure funding to clean-up a mercury mine on Mt. Diablo. The Commission wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning Community Warning System policies. 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. The Commission also began planning for its triennial planning retreat.

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 has held 7 meetings this year, as well as 6 meetings of the Operations subcommittee and 4 meetings of the Planning and Policy Development subcommittee. All of the full Commission meetings obtained a quorum, with an average of 8.5 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 THIS YEAR

This 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 also began planning for its triennial planning retreat that will occur in September. 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.