

2008 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, 2008

ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed the implementation of the County's Integrated Pest Management Policy
- Requested information on the status of the County's Environmental Justice Policy from County Counsel
- Received a presentation on the Health Department's Reducing Health Disparities Initiative
- Received a presentation from the Community Development Department about proposed Federal regulations concerning the rail transport of Hazardous Waste
- Conducted a study session on the implementation of Environmental Justice Policies at the local, state and federal levels
- Received a presentation from the Chief Administrators Office on implementation of the County's EJ policy
- Received a presentation from the Office of Emergency Services about evacuation planning activities for North Richmond
- Wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors about implementation of the County's Environmental Justice Policy
- Reviewed the Hazardous Materials Programs' annual report on implementation of the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance
- Received a presentation on brownfield redevelopment by a private developer
- Received a presentation by the American Red Cross on emergency preparation activities in North Richmond
- Received a presentation from the Department of Toxic Substances Control on their Brownfield clean-up program
- Received a presentation from the City of Pittsburg about their brownfield redevelopment program
- Collected surveys about residential concerns about hazardous materials at eight community events

- Met with each member of the Board of Supervisors individually
- Conducted a workshop on Household Hazardous Wastes for the general public
- Sponsored a forum on addressing the cumulative impacts of pollution

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Commission continued their commitment to the implementation of the County's Environmental Justice Policy by conducting a complete review of the status of the County's program and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on that review. The Commission made recommendations to the Community Development Department concerning the language of proposed federal regulations of the rail transport of hazardous materials that were incorporated into the County's comments on these regulations. The Commission gathered information about the public's opinions around hazardous materials issues by collecting surveys at community events throughout the year. The Commission held a townhall meeting with one of the County Supervisors about household hazardous waste. The Commission sponsored a forum on addressing the cumulative impacts of pollution.

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 10 meetings this year, as well as 7 meetings of the Operations subcommittee and 9 meetings of the Planning and Policy Development subcommittee. All of the full Commission meetings obtained a quorum, with an average of 10 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; hold at least one more townhall meeting on household hazardous waste issues; continue to collect surveys of individual's concerns with hazardous material issues; respond to any requests from the Board of Supervisors; and continually evaluate emerging issues, including Precautionary Principle and Environmental Justice concerns.