



Meeting Minutes - Final

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Hazardous Materials Commission

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

4:00 PM

777 Arnold Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 -

Paramount Room

<https://zoom.us/j/99128939868>

Phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 991 2893 9868

Planning & Policy Committee

Committee Chair: Jim Payne

Committee Vice Chair: Eduardo Martinez

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Commissioners Present: Mark Hughes, Jim Payne, Lisa Martell, Ron Chin

Commissioners Present Online: Soheila Bana

Public Present: None

Staff Present: Adam Springer

2. CONSIDER approval of the February 19, 2025 Hazardous Materials Commission Planning and Policy Committee meeting minutes.

The commissioners present voted to approve the February 19, 2025 Hazardous Materials Commission Planning and Policy Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Jim Payne

Second: Lisa Martell

3. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

No members of the public were present and therefore there were no comments made by members of the public.

NEW BUSINESS

4. DISCUSS SB 684 & AB 1243 and the attached resolutions and CONSIDER making a recommendation to the full commission.

AB1243 | California 2025-2026 | Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025. | TrackBill [trackbill.com]

SB684 | California 2025-2026 | Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025. | TrackBill [trackbill.com]

The commissioners present reviewed the attached documents and had a discussion. Commissioner Hughes stated that these bills did not make it to the floor and were instead sent back to the originating committee for revision. Commissioner Payne stated that he believed the rationale behind this was concerns regarding the language used and a lack of clarity. Some commissioners felt that retroactive penalties would be unfair considering companies were in compliance with the law and regulations at the time. The commissioners agreed that it seemed premature to make any recommendations until the bills are brought back again.

5. DISCUSS the Stanford report and related article regarding the dangers of gas stoves and CONSIDER making a recommendation to the full commission.

The commissioners present review the attached documents. Staff member Adam suggested referring this topic to the Ombudsperson as it seems more health-related and potentially outside of the committee's scope. The commissioners recalled that cities had previously made proposals on gas stoves only in new builds but that these were overturned by the courts. Commissioner Bana stated that a contributing factor to this was a large push back from the restaurant industries. Commissioner Hughes noted that by 2030 you will no longer be able to purchase gas water heaters and furnaces in California, however, gas stoves are under federal jurisdiction. Gas stoves can instead include a warning label on them to inform the public of potential health impacts, but the commission believes this was vetoed by Governor Newsom. The commission felt that indoor air quality was outside of the scope of this committee and decided to not make any recommendations on the topic.

6. DISCUSS the expiring terms for Business Seat #2 and Environmental Engineering Firms.

The commissioners present discussed the expiring terms on this committee. Commissioner Hughes stated that he and his alternate Amy McTigue will reapply for another term as Business Seat #2 and will acquire a nomination letter from the Industrial Association. Commissioner Chin stated that he would also like to reapply for another term as Environmental Engineering Firm and will acquire a nomination letter from Innovex, Environmental Management Inc. Commissioner Chin stated that his daughter Maile, former HMC student intern, is interested in applying for the commission, but wanted to ensure there was not an issue due to the familial relationship. Staff has also contacted other environmental engineering firms requesting a nomination for the expiring seat. If there are more than two nominations presented to the commission, the nominees will all need to be interviewed before making a recommendation to the Internal Operations Committee and ultimately the Board of Supervisors.

7. Announcements from commissioners on items of commission interest.

Commissioner Bana made a suggestion for a future agenda item. She stated that an issue has come up in her community around the installation of backup batteries for 5G towers on the sidewalk. She expressed concerns around what would occur if it was struck by a vehicle and she wants to know if the county has any guidelines around this. Commissioner Payne stated that they would have needed to pull a permit before installation. Commissioner Bana stated that they had but citizens of Richmond filed a petition and then Public Works stopped the project. Staff will check on what guidelines the county has in place and what the permitting process is for these types of batteries.

Commissioner Martell inquired about if the commission had made a recommendation regarding UL certified lithium ion batteries. Staff stated they believe the county already requires batteries sold within the county to be UL certified, but will confirm, and the major concern is batteries purchased online and shipped here.

8. Plan next meeting agenda.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 19th at 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Full meeting recording can be found here: <https://contra-costa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>