



Meeting Minutes - Draft

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Hazardous Materials Commission

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

4:00 PM

777 Arnold Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 -
Paramount Room

<https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/98031936341>

Meeting ID: 980 3193 6341

Planning and Policy Committee

Committee Chair: Jim Payne

Committee Vice Chair: Eduardo Martinez

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 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, Ron Chinn, Drew Graham, Soheila Bana, Eduardo Martinez, Lisa Martell

Staff Present: Adam Springer

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

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

Motion: Mark Hughes

Second: Drew Graham

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

There were not any comments made by members of the public.

4. DISCUSS 2026 committee chair elections and CONSIDER approving a committee chair and vice chair for 2026.

The commissioners present discussed the 2026 committee chair elections and voted to reappoint Jim Payne as the committee chair and Eduardo Martinez as the vice committee chair.

Chair: Jim Payne
Motion: Mark Hughes
Second: Ron Chinn

Vice Chair: Eduardo Martinez
Motion: Lisa Martell
Second: Soheila Bana

5. DISCUSS priorities for 2026 and potential guest speakers.

The commissioners present reviewed the Hazardous Materials Commission priorities for 2026 with extra attention to the priorities that were assigned to this committee. Commissioner Martell noted that she wanted to add small modular reactors (SMRs) to the Planning and Policy Committee priorities. Commissioner Martinez agreed stating that this committee should focus on the quantity as well as the location of these SMRs being proposed or in the process of being built and how that affects the general health and safety of our communities, particularly considering that we have fault lines everywhere. Commissioner Chinn stated that he believes existing California law prevents the building of nuclear reactors but that they are in the process of repealing it right now and that SMRs are absolutely coming; his concerns were particularly around the waste streams: where does it go, how do you manage it, the fuel being brought in/out, the safety of the reactors themselves. Commissioner Graham and Hughes both expressed interest in learning more about this topic, with Hughes noting that the commission needs to remember to remain within their scope of the hazardous materials/waste aspects of these SMRs. Supervisor Ken Carlson had previously expressed interest in changes to aviation fuel and legislative changes potentially impacting airports so the committee would like to keep this as a priority. Commissioner Chinn suggested bringing in one his contacts, a fuel manager at the Concord airport, to give a presentation and provide better clarity on this topic; Commissioner Eduardo suggested a presentation from Raven on green waste sites.

6. DISCUSS AB 1243 and SB 684 and CONSIDER drafting a resolution.

<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1243/id/3136931>
<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB684/id/3137202>

The commissioners present discussed AB1243 and SB 684 noting that these bills had been proposed to this committee previously last year, but the bills had been sent back to their respective committees so no action was taken by the committee. These bills were to be reconsidered in 2026 and SB 684 was up for a vote on February 2nd, but it failed, and AB 1243 is a companion bill that the authors pulled back. As far as the committee is aware both of these bills are dead again and failed in the first committee review so the committee decided once again to not take any action.

7. DISCUSS any upcoming legislative issues.

Staff has not received any updates from the CUPA forum board in regards to the items this committee previously expressed interest in on their last legislative update. Staff noted that since the Board of Supervisors released a new administrative bulletin stating that committees can no longer comment on legislation or make recommendations to the Board. The commissioners present expressed extreme concerns around what this means in terms of the function of the commission and how they can make recommendations moving forward. The general understanding is that the administrative bulletin states that the county procedure around legislation has changed since last year and that recommendations can no longer come from commissioners, it must come directly from staff and cannot be relayed until just before the next meeting of the legislative committee. Commissioner Bana suggested this topic be agendaized and added to the full commission agenda so that the exact procedure can be clarified and all members can be aware of what this exactly means for recommendations. Further discussion on this topic seemed to clarify that recommendations can be made to the Board, or at least to the legislative committee, on behalf of the commission but not directly to legislators; this will still be included on the full commission agenda to be sure of what exactly has changed.

8. Announcements from commissioners on items of commission interest.

Commissioner Martinez shared that a company, Viridi, is interested in manufacturing solar batteries in Richmond and that they will begin having conversations with them. They are also interested in setting up microgrids in Richmond, beginning with community centers and he feels the commission should start looking at ways to remediate these for hazardous materials and also be aware of the proliferation of hazardous materials through alternative energy sources.

9. Plan next meeting agenda.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 15, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.

For Additional Information Contact: Adam Springer at 925-655-3216

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