



ADVISORY BODY ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Hazardous Materials Commission

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM

Chair (during the reporting period): Mark Hughes (Business Seat #2)

Staff Person (during the reporting period): Adam Springer/Breanna Lingenfelter

Reporting Period: January through November 2025

I. Activities

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the activities for the past year including areas of study, work, special events, collaborations, etc.

Reviewed the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy and discussed all changes that occurred on January 15, 2025. Received a presentation from Roger Smith of AIA on the Pipeline Safety website. Reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management Standards Rulemaking. Received a presentation on lithium-ion battery emergencies from Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's Captain Paramedic Cody Clem. Discussed strategies for increasing public awareness and safety around lithium ion battery products. Received a presentation on pipeline safety from Jim Hosler of CAL FIRE. Received a general overview of the Draft Hazardous Waste Management Plan from Ryan Dominguez of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Received a presentation from Ashwin Jadhav and Derek Phelps of Twelve Co., The Carbon Transformation Company on decarbonizing aviation. Guided and supported two student interns for half of the year before receiving their final presentations. Discussed contaminated soil testing, remediation, and management. Reviewed various county web pages including the commission's, hazardous materials programs, community warning system, and ombudsperson.

II. Accomplishments

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the accomplishments for the past year, particularly in reference to your work plan and objectives.

The Commission reviewed and updated their Commission web page to include their most recent recommendations, improve accessibility to the public, and links to other helpful resources. The Commission mentored two student interns and provided support and guidance for their research projects; the intern projects included improving the reach of community warning system to include the unhoused population and cadmium bioremediation strategies. The Commission hosted a public forum on September 11th with the purpose of educating the public on household hazardous wastes. The forum had panelists and presentations from the Bay Area Air District, Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs, Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, and the Community Warning System. After the presentations and a question and answer session, the public was able to gather with each of the panelists and receive additional resources from all of the organizations. The forum presentations were recorded and published to YouTube and the Commission's web page. The Commission followed the County's general plan to completion as well as keeping up to date with current legislation; multiple emerging bills have been discussed throughout the year. Some of these bills have been sent back to their committees so the Commission did not make any formal recommendations regarding them.

III. Attendance/Representation

(estimated response length: 1/4 page)

Describe your membership in terms of seat vacancies, diversity, level of participation, and frequency of achieving a quorum at meetings.

The 14-member Commission has members and alternates from diverse backgrounds including organized labor, environmental groups, an Environmental Justice community, industry, cities, environmental engineering firms, the League of Women Voters and the public at large. Only one seat (Environmental Engineering Firms Alternate) was vacant for the entirety of the year due to the previous member retiring before their term expiration, but all other seats were filled for 2025. There is a strong sense of participation overall on the Commission, although there has been a decrease in involvement from a few members this year which has resulted in some occasional difficulty achieving quorum.

IV. Training/Certification

(estimated response length: 1/4 page)

Describe any training that was provided or conducted, and any certifications received, either as a requirement or done on an elective basis by members. NOTE: Please forward copies of any training certifications to the Clerk of the Board.

The Commissioners that were newly appointed or reappointed for 2025 completed the Brown Act & Better Government Training, Ethics Training, and Implicit Bias Training. Training certificates have been provided to the Clerk of the Board.

V. Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for Next Year

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the advisory body's workplan, including specific objectives to be achieved in the upcoming year.

In 2026 the Commission will continue to investigate some of the issues they were investigating in 2025 and will address emerging issues that are brought to them by the Board of Supervisors, the public and members of the Commission. The Commission will continue to monitor several issues that they monitored in the past such as the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative's efforts to clean-up brownfield sites within its border, brownfield community engagement and signage, and hazardous materials-related State legislation.

Priorities from 2025 that will continue into 2026 are monitoring the Community Warning System including the system and technology, changes in aviation fuel, hydrogen generation, battery waste management and emergency response, hazardous materials transportation corridors, carbon capture technologies/carbon sequestration, and PFAS. New priorities for 2026 include tracking the merger of Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs and Con Fire and herbicide usage in the county.

The Commission plans to hold another public forum in 2026 to improve community engagement and knowledge as it relates to hazardous materials.