

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Hazardous Materials Commission

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: Fourth Thursday of every month, 4-6 pm, 777 Arnold Dr., Martinez

Chair: Fred Glueck, Business Seat # 1

Staff: Adam Springer and Breanna Lingenfelter, Contra Costa Health

Reporting Period: January – December 2024

ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed County General Plan Changes and compare them against previous Commission recommendations
- Reviewed status report regarding proposed modifications to the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy for Level 1 incident notifications to the public. Reviewed proposed changes to the Community Warning System Notification Policy and provided feedback
- Reviewed Community Steering Committee of the AB 617 Path to Clean Air Program to endorse the Community Emission Reduction Plan for the Richmond/San Pablo/North Richmond area and considered making recommendations about the Plan to the Board of Supervisors
- Commission Interns presented their research topics Carbon Sequestration (Montezuma Project); Green Business Program participation, Joint meeting with the sustainability commission
- Brownfield letter created by the Operations Committee on recommendations for community engagement, which may impact Concord Naval Weapons Station, Northern Waterfront, and other locations within the County. The letter was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors in November 2024
- Reviewed State Legislative bills and tracked for any potential recommendations to the Board of Supervisors
- Ensuring the HMC Website has proper tools for community involvement and making recommendations to support the work of the Hazardous Materials Commission.
- Reviewed Safety culture assessment P66, Chevron, MRC
- Provided updates and gathered feedback from current Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, and Carlson.
- The Commission began a transition from staff support by the hazardous materials Ombudsperson to the current listed staff. A Health officer will staff the ombudsperson in the future and will update the Commission on issues when necessary.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recommended to the Board of Supervisors that they consider the Brownfield letter developed by the Commission to address community engagement for Brownfields and other contaminated site cleanups.
- Recommendations to staff on community awareness messaging for Community Warning System Level 1 messages.
- Selected two student interns for the 2024/2025 school year
- Recruited for open Environmental Organization Seat.
- Recommended candidates to the Internal Operations Committee for Environmental Organization Seat and Business Seat #3.
- Recommended candidates to the Board of Supervisors for City Seat #3 and the League of Women Voters Seat.
- Declared a vacancy to the Environmental Engineering Firm Seat effective 1/1/2025.
- Conducted annual meetings with all five members of the Board of Supervisors

ATTENDANCE/REPRESENTATION

The 14-member Commission has members and alternates from organized labor, environmental groups, an Environmental Justice community, industry, cities, environmental engineering firms, the League of Women Voters and the public at large. The Commission held 10 full Commission meetings this year. The Commission meetings averaged 9.4 commissioners or their alternates per meeting.

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

No training or certification was provided or conducted.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS YEAR

In 2025, the Commission will continue to investigate some of the issues it began investigating in 2024 and will address emerging issues brought to it by the Board of Supervisors, the public, and members of the Commission. In addition, the Commission will continue to monitor several issues that it monitored in 2024.

The issues the Commission intends to work on in 2025, carried over from 2024, are local hazardous waste management, Community Warning System Level 1 notification, brownfield community engagement and signage, hazardous materials-related State legislation, seal level rise, and the Alamo Improvement Association (AIA) Pipeline Safety website.

The Commission will assess new issues in 2025, including carbon sequestration, battery waste management, concerns over electrification byproducts, lead aviation fuel, emerging remediation technology, and hydrogen generation or storage facilities.

The Commission will continue to monitor the operation of the Community Warning System, the implementation of the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance and Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy, the impacts of sea level rise on hazardous materials and wetlands, and refinery conversion to biofuels.