



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Hazardous Materials Commission

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Wednesday, November 19, 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

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#### Planning & Policy Committee

*Committee Chair: Jim Payne*

*Committee Vice Chair: Eduardo Martinez*

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 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: Nick Plurkowski, Soheila Bana, Mark Hughes, Drew Graham, Lisa Martell

Public Present: Maureen Brennan, George Carter, Kathryn Grace

Staff Present: Adam Springer

2. CONSIDER approval of the September 17, 2025 Hazardous Materials Commission Planning and Policy Committee meeting minutes.

The commissioners present voted to approve the September 17, 2025 Hazardous Materials Commission Planning and Policy Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Soheila Bana

Second: Nick Plurkowski

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

Maureen Brennan made a public comment urging the Planning and Policy Committee to draft a resolution in support of the AB 1243 and SB 684 to hopefully be signed by the Board of Supervisors. She had previously presented these bills to the committee in September, but the committee's understanding then was that the bills had been shelved so no further action was taken. Maureen stated that the bills were not shelved and that organizers in support want to continue to move it forward. She provided copies of resolutions from Los Angeles county and San Francisco in September and is happy to provide them again for the committee to use as a template; stating that 19 new communities throughout the state have come forward with similar resolutions.

Kathryn Grace made a public comment stating that she was also here in support of AB 1243 and SB 684. She stated that these bills are currently stalled in committee in their respective houses. She feels these bills are very important citing that they would create a statewide climate superfund that would aid communities like ours in recovery from climate disasters such as wildfires and floods. She also stated that it would fund climate-resilient infrastructure to protect vulnerable areas from future climate impacts and that they would support frontline communities by providing resources for those who are most affected by climate change. She urged the committee that these bills are not dead and offered to share resources with the committee.

**4. DISCUSS Hazardous Materials Commission Priorities for 2026.**

The commissioners present reviewed the priorities for 2025 and discussed priorities for 2026. Monitoring the general plan has been a standing item for the Planning and Policy Committee, but will remove it from their priorities for 2026 considering that the updated plan has been adopted and will most likely not be revised for another 15 years. The committee would like to receive a presentation on the updates to the general plan from Will Nelson from DCD. Commissioner Graham felt that any legislation being considered and brought in front of the assembly should be a priority of this committee. Staff had previously shared a legislative packet from the CUPA forum board and has also requested a legislative packet from the county as well. The Planning and Policy Committee would like to continue monitoring the Community Warning System (CWS) in addition to any changes to its system and technology. This committee would also like to add tracking the merger of the hazardous materials programs to ConFIRE to its priorities for 2026; staff will work to get a presentation on this for early 2026. Commissioner Martell suggested considering the problems associated with increased electrification like the impacts from the introduction of AI data centers in the county. Commissioner Bana suggested looking into the use of atrazine, an herbicide, and recommending that it be banned in the county; staff will check with the county's agriculture department for more information.

**5. DISCUSS the 2026 committee chair elections**

The commissioners present discussed the 2026 committee chair elections. Committee chair elections typically take place at the start of each year so this committee will revisit this item in 2026.

**6. DISCUSS the current regulations around backup batteries for 5G towers.**

The commissioners present discussed the current regulations around back up batteries for 5g towers. Staff shared some background information regarding the permitting process and what the permits entail: anyone working on it must be properly trained, there must be safety equipment on site, must be contained and not leaking. Its location is more of a community Right to Know Act component rather than for emergency response; however, emergency responders would be aware of it if responding to an event in its proximity. The commissioners present reviewed the attached documents regarding the regulation guidelines in place for the county. Staff noted that most of the questions and concerns from commissioners are in regard to the safety measures for storing and building, rather than how the county regulates it once it has been built. Staff suggested receiving a presentation from someone representing fire or building codes to better understand their regulations.

7. Announcements from commissioners on items of commission interest.

Commissioner Rubio initiated the formation of a Sustainability Advisory Committee in San Ramon and they have since revamped their Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Plurkowski expressed concerns after a recent meeting with CalOSHA and the county, noting that CalOSHA has the ability to issue citations and enforce compliance, but is concerned about how the county can enforce compliance when it does not penalize. Staff provided background information sharing that the Accidental Release Prevention Program currently does not receive fines, but the county is in the process of revising their administrative enforcement order.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 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>*