



Meeting Minutes - Draft

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Hazardous Materials Commission

Thursday, March 26, 2026

4:00 PM

777 Arnold Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 -
Paramount Room
<https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/98031936341>
Meeting ID: 980 3193 6341

Chair: Mark Hughes

Vice Chair: Aaron Winer

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: Aaron Winer, Mark Hughes, Drew Graham, Eduardo Martinez, Brianne Zorn, Soheila Bana, Ron Chinn, Maureen Brennan, Jamin Pursell, Lisa Martell, Tim Bancroft, Nick Plurkowski, Marielle Boortz

Staff Present: Adam Springer, Breanna Lingenfelter

2. CONSIDER approval of the January 22, 2026 Hazardous Materials Commission meeting minutes.

The commissioners present voted to approve the January 22, 2026 Hazardous Materials Commission meeting minutes with minor revisions.

Motion: Eduardo Martinez

Second: Aaron Winer

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. RECEIVE a report from the Operations Committee.

During their March meeting, the Operations Committee reviewed their assigned priorities for 2026 and potential guest speakers, noted that the full commission will receive a presentation on carbon capture sequestration during their April meeting, brainstormed what policies or procedures would be good to document for the committees such as interviewing procedures and onboarding ideas, and then finished off their meeting by continuing planning logistics for the public forum.

5. RECEIVE a report from the Planning and Policy Committee.

The Planning and Policy Committee meets every other month and their last meeting was in February. Staff included this agenda item in error; there was nothing to report for this month.

6. RECEIVE a report from the Hazardous Materials Programs.

The Hazardous Materials Programs did not have any incidents to report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

7. DISCUSS any updates to the priorities for 2026 and potential guest speakers.

The commissioners present discussed this standing agenda item and noted again that so far the only confirmed guest speaker is on carbon capture sequestration; a representative from Food and Water Watch will present to the full commission during their April meeting. Staff had reached out to their contact at Raven, but was informed that that individual is no longer involved with the project so staff and commissioners will work to identify a new contact. Commissioner Martell noted that she would like to find a speaker on small modular reactors, with Commissioner Hughes noting it would be ideal to have a speaker that can provide an independent review versus a speaker that is either for or against SMRs. Some commissioners inquired about the county or hospital's radiation team for possible speakers. The commissioners present inquired about when they could expect a presentation from Con Fire on the merger between them and the county's hazardous materials commission, staff will look into this. Commissioner Brennan expressed interest in a speaker from Solano County's Industrial Safety Ordinance and shared details with staff; she also was interested in following plans for the air district to use the county's current ISO for root cause analyses.

8. CONSIDER revising the committee assignments for the Hazardous Materials Commission seats.

Commissioner Brennan expressed interest in switching from the Operations Committee to the Planning and Policy Committee and noted that her alternate's experience and expertise might be better suited on the Planning and Policy Committee. In order to make this change, a seat from the P&P committee would need to switch over to the OPS committee to maintain balance. A few commissioners stated that they would not be available to attend OPS committee meetings as they are on Friday mornings. Without any clear volunteers, the commissioners present decided to consider this option and revisit in the future.

9. DISCUSS the new policy adopted by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Office of Pipeline Safety.

The commissioners present discussed the new policy adopted by PHMSA and had differing interpretations of what it actually meant. Commissioner Hughes interpreted the policy as giving operators of pipelines a free pass to not necessarily comply with all regulations, but Commissioner Boortz noted that it was only in response to a national energy emergency. Commissioner Martell questioned what specifically defines or who declares a national energy emergency, noting that she believes we are currently in one. The commissioners present agreed that this should be an item to keep an eye on as there were not any actions they felt they could take at this point.

10. DISCUSS small modular reactors (SMR) and review the attached fact sheet.

The commissioners present expressed continued interest in receiving a presentation on SMRs, noting that a speaker that could provide an unbiased opinion would be ideal. The increase in data centers require more resources and waste products to be brought in and out of the centers, the commissioners expressed concerns around potentially hazardous materials being transported through the county - there was one proposed in Pittsburg. Commissioner Zorn thinks she may have connections to bring in possibly both a pro nuclear, anti nuclear, or an unbiased opinion on SMRs - the commission would prefer an unbiased speaker that could give the commission a better understanding and general overview of SMRs versus taking an actual stance. The commission needs to focus on hazardous materials/wastes so the presentation should focus on impacts of SMRs, other risks of having them and potential remediation strategies. Commissioner Bana expressed concerns around a potential drone attack on local nuclear reactors and if/how they could be protected. Commissioner Winer shared that one of the trailers of dewatered solids leaving from West County Waste Water was detected as hot for radiation headed for the Vasco landfill; they believe it was medical waste that came through the sewers but the final report has not yet been completed. They have since had to develop a radiation response program to prepare for the potential of this occurring again; he will reach out to the consultants at Terra Con for contacts for guest speakers.

11. DISCUSS the updated CUPA legislation report.

The commissioners present discussed the updated CUPA legislative report with staff providing an update on two specific items that the CUPA forum board is following: hazardous waste - solar photovoltaic modules and Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Act. Commissioner Hughes noted he was surprised that solar photovoltaic modules were currently being considered as universal waste and could be placed into landfills; staff clarified that universal waste is still regulated and if guidelines are not followed for management then it would become considered as hazardous waste. Commissioner Zorn expressed some interest in following vehicle traction batteries and lithium-ion vehicle batteries: emergencies.

12. DISCUSS the legislative process for making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

There was some previous confusion around what exactly admin bulletin 110 meant for the commission and its ability to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors so staff wanted to clarify the update process. Staff shared that the commission still acts as an advisory body to the Board, but the formal process for submitting recommendations has changed. Page 9 of the attached bulletin defines the exact process that must be followed. Staff previously sent recommendations to the Clerk of the Board to be passed on to the Board, but now staff must send to the county administrator's office. The Commission can not speak on behalf of the Board and bring that to the assembly, they can only propose that the Board takes a specific position or advise them more on the subject. Commissioner Hughes suggested revisiting this again before making an recommendations to the Board.

13. DISCUSS any other upcoming legislative issues.

The commissioners present did not have any other upcoming legislative issues to discuss.

14. Announcements from commissioners on items of commission interest.

Commissioner Pursell wanted to propose a topic for the Planning and Policy Committee could look into: SB 868, a company named Bright Saver creates small solar panels for balconies and residential use. These are currently not regulated and he expressed concerns around the safety of the items and bringing lithium ion batteries into residential areas without power walls or any insulation barriers. Staff looked into this bill and noted that the legislative text was more focused on requiring permits from PG&E, the Chair noted this could be added to the list of priorities to be followed. Commissioner Boortz inquired to staff about a recent event in Concord that Con Fire responded to involving organophosphates. Staff shared that a FedEx truck holding containers of organophosphates and headed to the county agriculture office arrived leaking and as a result a number of individuals were exposed. It was a nearly all-day event to contain and treat any and all contaminated areas/individuals. Reports are still being completed but it seems that the containers were not properly labeled and it seems as though the drivers were not aware of or educated on the contents. Commissioner Pursell noted that the county is applying for an exemption for the use of anti-coagulants for ground squirrel remediation; staff noted they have a contact from the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee that could further speak on this topic.

15. Plan next meeting agenda.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 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>