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February 20, 2026

Brianne Zorn  
Mayor, City of Martinez  
525 Henrietta St.  
Martinez, CA 94553

Mayor Zorn,

I am writing in response to your letter dated January 29, 2026 to the Board of Supervisors regarding changes to the Community Warning System (CWS). CCH Hazmat's use of the CWS for hazardous materials releases depends on a strong partnership with the Sheriff's Office. Over the last 26 years, we've collaborated closely with the CWS team and remain committed to continued collaboration to ensure the system continues to function at the highest level. Thank you for your comments and recommendations regarding improvement of the system. Over the last 3 years, the Hazardous Materials Division has implemented a number of improvements with the goal of increasing transparency and awareness in communities. Please see below for CCH's response to items from your letter. For items we're not able to address, we defer to the Sheriff's Office; however, we will continue to work closely with them to enact any adjustments deemed necessary as it relates to the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy and CWS use for hazmat incidents.

Item 1: CCH understands your concern to be regarding the current level definition in the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy and will work with CAER through our notification group to evaluate the levels and provide additional guidance. Our current policy and procedures rely initially on the facility to place the initial notification, and levels are adjusted based on the field observations made by our incident response team.

Item 2: CCH will review the current language that is sent out in our messages and make any adjustments as necessary.

Item 3: The use of the Federally regulated WEA tool as an enhancement to the CWS by hazmat is defined in our policy. The current Hazardous Materials Incident Notification policy allows CCH to use WEA at its



discretion for Level 2 incidents when warranted by the event, and WEA is automatically triggered for Level 3 events. CCH has partnered with CAER to provide outreach to our communities to increase Level 1 opt in sign-ups. We also have worked collaboratively with our cities to have Level 1 messages relayed through any city specific platforms (e.g. Nixle) when an alert goes out. We will continue to work with all our partners (city, industry, and agency) on this matter through our CAER Notification group.

Items 4 and 5: Our current policies and procedures for incident response do require information to be given as soon as it is known. In many instances this is provided upon the initial CWS notification or shortly thereafter. CCH will explore avenues to have this information relayed to the public, if any CWS system changes are required we will need to work closely with the Sheriff's Office for implementation.

Item 6: CCH's current incident response protocols have already incorporated notification to City and School officials during an incident. This includes updates on the situation.

Item 7: Public Education has been the cornerstone of successful implementation of the CWS. In an effort to increase our reach, CCH has partnered with CAER to increase education about the system and how to sign up via an annual contract. This contract will continue to be in place after the merger of the hazardous materials programs to CCCFPD. We appreciate the current partnership from our cities and the Sheriff's Office in educating our communities.

We will continue to work with the board through the ISO Ad Hoc to make recommendations and receive direction on any changes in the implementation of the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy.

Sincerely,

**Nicole A. Heath**

Director, Hazardous Materials Programs

CC: Supervisor John Gioia, Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, Supervisor Ken Carlson, Supervisor Candace Andersen, Supervisor Diane Burgis