

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Advisory Body Name:** Hazardous Materials Commission

**Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location:** Fourth Thursday of every month, 4-6 pm, 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord

**Chair:** George Smith, Environmental Engineer Seat

**Staff:** Michael Kent, Contra Costa Health Services

**Reporting Period:** January - December, 2020

### ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed proposed changes to the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy.
- Reviewed the hazardous materials-related issues in the County's Legislative Platform.
- Reviewed and discussed a proposed resolution from the BlueGreen Alliance about the WSPA lawsuit pertaining to recent amendments to the State's CalARP and PSM regulations.
- Reviewed and discussed a recommendation from CBE to support an independent analysis of the feedstock of the Phillips 66 refinery.
- Received a presentation on the proposal to deepen the San Francisco Bay shipping channels.
- Reviewed information about the lithium ion car battery recycling advisory group.
- Reviewed the format and contents of the HMC web page.
- Received a presentation on the Industrial Safety Ordinance Annual report.
- Received a report on the impact of Sea Level Rise on the transportation of hazardous materials in Contra Costa County.
- Received a presentation on a proposed grant application concerning pipeline safety.
- Created and advertised for a student internship position.
- Advertised for an open Environmental Seat and a new Environmental Justice seat.
- Received two presentations on proposed oil and gas exploration activities in East County.
- Received a presentation on proposed goals, policies and actions pertaining to Environmental Justice in the update to the County's General Plan.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Provided input on proposed changes to the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy.
- Provided recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on changes to the County's Legislative Platform.
- Made improvements to the format and contents of the HMC web page.
- Provided input on the Industrial Safety Ordinance Annual Report.
- Seated two student interns for the school year.
- Recommended candidates to the Board of Supervisors for filling an Environmental Seat and Alternate and an Environmental Justice Seat and Alternate.
- Began developing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on proposed goals, policies and actions pertaining to Environmental Justice for the update to the County's General Plan.

## **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 had membership from all regions of the County in 2019. A new Environmental Justice Seat and Alternate, and a third City Seat and alternate were created for the Commission in July. An Environmental Seat and Alternate were also eliminated in July, leaving the Commission with 14 seats. The newly created seats will be filled next year. All seats were filled this year, except the alternate for one of the Labor seats was vacant the whole year. The Commission only held 5 full commission meetings this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, with an average attendance of 10 members.

## **TRAINING/CERTIFICATION**

No training or certification was provided or conducted.

## **PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS YEAR**

In 2021 the Commission will continue to investigate some of the issues they began investigating in 2020 and will address emerging issues that are brought to them by the Board of Supervisors, the public and members of the Commission. In addition, the Commission will continue to monitor several issues that they monitored in 2020.

The issues the Commission intends to continue to investigate in 2020 are the inclusion of Environmental Justice issues in the update to the County's General

Plan, public meetings on the ISO Safety Culture Assessments, co-sponsoring another cybersecurity workshop, a needs assessment for pipeline safety education and awareness, regulations being developed by DTSC for TSD facilities concerning cumulative and community impacts, the root cause analysis of the Nustar fire in October, 2019, the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan and the impacts of groundwater intrusion due to sea level rise on contaminated sites.

Issues the Commission will continue to monitor are the impacts of the recycling of lithium batteries, the emerging impacts and regulation of PFOS, the implementation of SB 617 in Richmond, the implementation of the County's Pharmaceutical Ordinance, the implementation of the Air District Rule 11-18 concerning Air Risk Assessments, the developments in the WSPA lawsuits concerning the recent amendments to the State's PSM and CalARP regulations, the operation of the Community Warning System, and the implementation of the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance.