

**Proposed changes to the hazardous materials-related policies in the Contra Costa State 2021/2022  
Legislative Platform, by the Planning and Policy Development committee**

October 19, 2022

Climate Change

- ENSURE that the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic supports the following: } Technologies that support the County's climate goals, including battery energy storage and microgrids, solar and wind energy, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure; } Energy efficiency programs that encourage whole house retrofits and address asthma triggers in the built environment; } Planning work for adapting to rising sea levels; } Planning and implementation of microgrids; } Active transportation and green infrastructure programs; } Job training for careers in clean energy, clean transportation, and green infrastructure
- SUPPORT actions that: address the impacts of climate change; support climate adaptation and resilience efforts; support the Green Business program; address the disproportionate impacts that some communities bear because they are located near large industrial facilities; reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gases; study and recognize the health impacts of global and regional climate change; and study the economic, workforce and social impacts of transitioning away from fossil fuels
- SUPPORT resources for local governments to use in addressing impacts caused by a changing climate such as sea level rise, flooding, ground water rise, fires, and power disruptions

Emergency Preparedness/Emergency Response

- SUPPORT more authority to train volunteers, provide funding for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), and help clean-up oil spills without taking on additional legal liability
- SUPPORT actions that increase the safety of the shipment of hazardous materials by pipeline through better monitoring, technical seismic vulnerability studies, leak detection, operational practices, and equipment.

Health Care

- SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate lead and toxic substances in consumer products, particularly those used by infants and children.

Land Use

- SUPPORT legislative actions that reduce the risk to students from the accidental release of hazardous materials by requiring risk assessments that account for all sources of hazardous materials as part of school siting and rebuilding decisions.

- SUPPORT legislative actions to evaluate, clean up, and redevelop contaminated sites.

### Transportation

- SUPPORT actions to increase waterborne transport of goods, in particular relative to the San Francisco to Stockton Ship Channel.
- SUPPORT measures to enhance rail safety with an emphasis on; increased state oversight of railroad bridges, funding for first responder training, funding to improve rail safety and prevent rail trespass fatalities, improved regulations for tank car safety standards, impacts from sea-level rise and data sharing requirements between state emergency managers, local responders, and rail operators.

### Waste Management

- MAINTAIN the County's existing discretionary authority over matters pertaining to solid or hazardous waste management, recovery and disposal. ENSURE new or expanded responsibilities are not imposed on the County, either directly or indirectly, without providing statutory authority to guarantee funding to implement actions necessary to adequately enforce or comply
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- Consider more robust local regulatory and enforcement authority relative to the storage, transport, processing, recovery and disposal of hazardous or solid waste within our jurisdictional boundaries.
- SUPPORT legislation that prioritizes, incentivizes, and innovates hazardous and solid waste reduction and reuse practices of the waste hierarchy over traditional recycling.
- ENSURE manufacturers are held accountable for proper end-of-life management of products and packing materials they produce, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps, and veterinary medicine, to create effective producer- led reduction, reuse and recycling programs and foster more environmentally sustainable product/packaging design and reduce the quantity of harmful pharmaceuticals (including veterinary medicine) that ultimately enter wastewater treatment facilities, bodies of water, and landfills.
- SUPPORT actions that will shift the financial burden of end-of-life management of products from individuals to producers and sellers.
- SUPPORT statewide regulation and enforcement to limit production or sale of items that negatively impact the environment or human health
- SUPPORT legislation that protects human health and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and hazardous wastes such as PFAS
- SUPPORT legislation that provides for less burdensome recovery of Household Hazardous Waste.