

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

## JUNE 25, 2020

### **Attendees on the Call**

George Smith; Mark Hughes; Gabe Quinto; Matt Kaufmann; Rita Xavier; John Wilson; Michael Kent; Jonathan Bash; Lisa Park; Janet Callaghan; Jan Warren; Leslie Stewart; Shoshana Wechsler; Mark Ross; Fred Glueck; Steve Linsley; Charlie Davidson; Tracy Scott; Brandon Matson; Audrey Comeaux; Don Bristol; Ken Ervin

### **Matt Kaufmann**

“Many staff members have been reassigned to Disaster Services’ roles. The County has temporarily discontinued most field inspections. They are currently working on a plan to allow us to safely resume inspections. Once resumed, we will focus on the highest priority/risk facilities.”

“There have not been any recent reports of hazardous materials releases.”

A question was asked of Matt regarding an update on the NuStar incident. Matt indicated that the Fire Department is still working on their report.

### **Operations Committee**

Nothing to report – the committee has not held any recent meetings

### **Planning & Policy Committee**

Nothing to report – the committee has not held any recent meetings

### **Environmental Justice Seat Update**

Michael Kent reported that only 1 application was received by the initial deadline. The Commission will need to decide if it wants to reopen the application period in order to attract additional candidates.

### **Student Intern Update**

The position was advertised, but unfortunately, since schools were closed in March, we didn’t receive any applications. The plan is to promote it again when school starts up in the fall.

### **New Business**

- Powerdrive Proposed Negative Declaration/Oil & Gas Drilling in Brentwood
  - Michael Kent said he talked with John Kopchik, and John asked that the Hazardous Materials Commission doesn’t develop any recommendations on this project prior to it going to the Board of Supervisors because it

would conflict with an ongoing formal process, including a Planning Commission review.

- Shoshana Wechsler indicated that the Sustainability Commission sent a request to the Board of Supervisors to suspend any vote on this until after the General Plan process was completed.
- John Wilson shared that he lives in the Brentwood neighborhood where the oil drilling is being proposed. He said that there are some settling issues with some homes in the neighborhood from past drilling, and that 58 homes have methane gas vents installed in their home – most residents aren't even aware of this.  
John also stated that he believes the proposed wells are only 650-800 feet away from homes in the area, yet the public notice doesn't provide enough details about the drilling (i.e. directional drilling, how deep, potential settling issues, etc.).
- Fred Glueck also said that it's not clear how deep they plan on drilling the wells.
- Shoshana expressed concern that the Hazardous Materials Commission didn't weigh in on the issues related to the initial project by Sunset Excavation, and that the existing site is too close to homes and within 2000 feet of a hospital. She also stated that the community really didn't seem to know much about the Sunset Excavation project.
- Ken Ervin mentioned that he lives very close to the proposed site, and that he had no knowledge of the Sunset Excavation project. He is concerned that the area will become a field of multiple wells, similar to Kern County.
- Charlie Davidson said he had a few "asks": Drilling details; Will hydrofluoric acid be used; Waste water disposal plans; and how will new wells contribute to harmful cumulative impacts/
- Leslie Stewart asked if there were houses near the site prior to the Sunset Excavation project wells being drilled. John Wilson stated that the wells were there first, and once the houses were built years later, the oils well field was essentially abandoned (but maybe just temporarily).
- John Wilson expressed concern that the existing wells are not being monitored as required, and the City of Brentwood can't find any records related to monitoring.
- Michael Kent asked if any of the houses have methane gas detectors inside the homes. John Wilson stated that they do not.
- It seemed unclear to everyone on the call when the permit might be issued or denied.