

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION



January 26, 2017

Supervisor Federal Glover, District V
315 East Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Dear Chairman Glover:

Re: Implementation of Adapting to Rising Tides Study Recommendations

Dear Chairperson Glover:

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission is in the final stages of a two-year planning process to address the impacts of sea level rise and flooding on the Contra Costa County shoreline from Richmond to Bay Point, called Adapting to Rising Tides (ART). The study generated numerous adaptation response recommendations related to hazardous materials management for the asset categories of industrial land use, hazardous materials sites, brownfields, refineries, pipelines, and household hazardous wastes. One of the priority-recommended actions of the study is to develop and disseminate guidance to business and industry on the best practices for reducing the potential impacts of flooding and sea level rise on their facilities, and the services and systems on which they rely. A second priority-recommended action is to create a public-private shoreline working group tasked with developing a plan to fund and implement integrated shoreline solutions to reduce flood risk.

The Hazardous Materials Commission has studied these adaptation response recommendations and priority-recommended actions, and at their January 26, 2017 meeting voted 10 -0 to make the following recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

- 1) The Board of Supervisors should direct the County's Hazardous Materials Program to begin the process of developing and disseminating guidance to all entities that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous waste that are, or potentially could be, at risk from sea level rise and flooding on the best practices for reducing the potential impacts of flooding and sea level rise on their facilities and the services and systems on which they rely.

The first step of this effort should be to define and identify the entities determined to be at risk. The next step should be to survey these entities to determine what they already know about the risks they face from sea level rise and flooding, and what steps they have taken to address these risks. The last step should be to develop and disseminate targeted educational materials and guidance on the best management practices for addressing these risks.

Members: George Smith, Chair, Rick Alcaraz, Don Bristol, Matthew Buell, Lara DeLaney, Frank Gordon, Fred Glueck, Steven Linsley, Jim Payne, Mark Ross, Ralph Sattler, Leslie Stewart, Usha Vedagiri

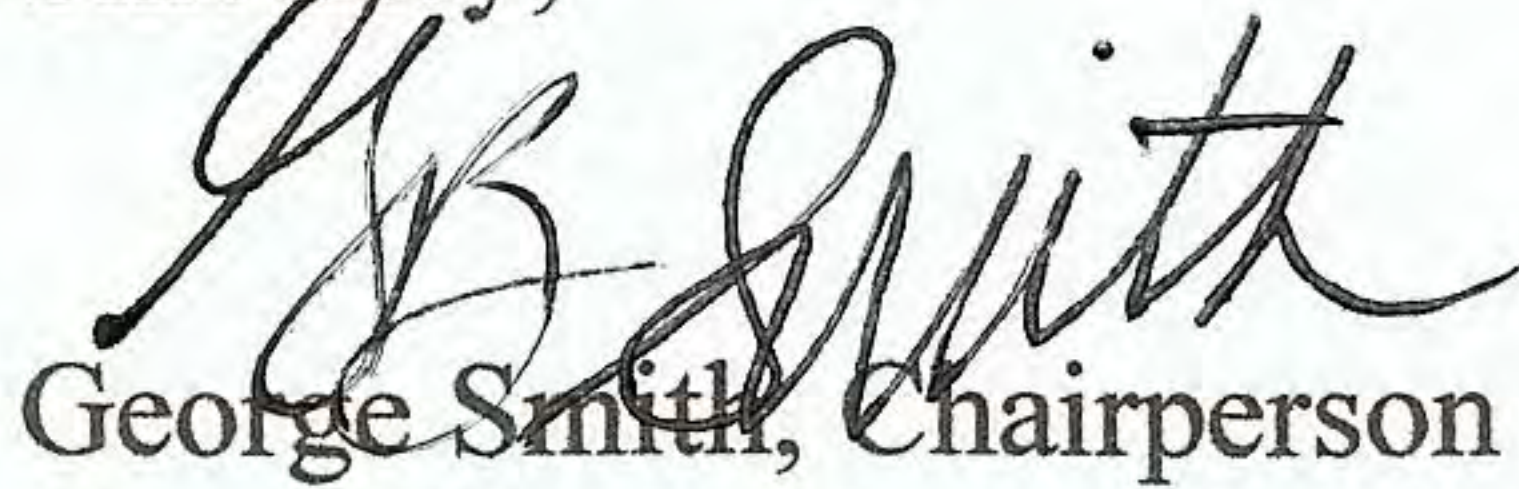
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- 2) The Board of Supervisors should take a leadership role in forming and participating in a public-private shoreline working group tasked with developing a plan to fund and implement integrated shoreline solutions to reduce flood risk, and to ensure that entities that handle hazardous materials and generate hazardous waste are protected. Infrastructure such as roads, pipelines and rail lines are critical for entities to receive hazardous materials, and ship out hazardous waste and products. Much of this critical infrastructure in Contra Costa County is located in shoreline areas at risk from sea level rise and flooding. If these systems are interrupted, even for a few days, process operations could be at physical risk, and facilities could be significantly impacted economically. Strong vision and leadership is needed to ensure this does not happen.

The Commission also encourages the Board of Supervisors to take advantage of such opportunities as the recently passed Measure AA and the Bay Area: Resilient by Design effort (see attached article) to fund planning and infrastructure projects needed to implement this effort.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Michael Kent, Executive Assistant to the Hazardous Materials Commission, if you have any questions concerning these recommendations. He can be reached at (925) 313-6587.

Sincerely,



George Smith, Chairperson

Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission

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