

February 5, 2016

Supervisor xxx

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Dear Supervisor x:

On October 5, 2015 I wrote to inform you that the Hazardous Materials Commission was reviewing the recommendations in a report on pipeline safety (attached) in Contra Costa that was prepared by the Pipeline Safety Trust for the Alamo Improvement Association, as part of a grant they received from the Federal Department of Transportation.

The Commission, in consultation with County staff and others, has reviewed nine recommendations in the report that were directed to the Board of Supervisors or one of the County Departments.

On January 28, The Commission unanimously agreed that the following recommendations contained in the report merit further consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission encourages you to discuss these recommendations with the appropriate departmental staff and other stakeholders to determine what measures may be necessary to implement these recommendations, to identify the appropriate lead staff that would be necessary to implement these measures, and to identify potential sources of any additional funding which may be needed to implement these recommendations. The page number where each recommendation can be found in the Pipeline Safety Trust report is listed after each recommendation.

- 1) **Review all development applications for opportunities to improve existing ingress/egress where currently limited, and where possible, include conditions on approvals to improve connectivity and avoid exacerbation of access problems. (p.27)**
- 2) **Plan emergency evacuation ingress/egress for areas in Alamo west of Danville Boulevard and the Iron Horse Corridor where a single pipeline crossing road is the only access for numerous homes and facilities with the goal of creating public accessibility across these “dead-end” neighborhoods that necessitate crossing the pipeline to access any services. (p. 27)**

- 3) Ensure the county has complete and accurate records of corridor and right of way locations. Continue to coordinate with Kinder Morgan and other utilities on resolution of encroachments into pipeline Rights of Way. (p. 23)**
- 4) Ensure the single staff point-of-contact for citizens with concerns about multiple utility issues and right of way questions has technical training on safety concerns, adequate resources to conduct regular and broad community outreach (especially along the Iron Horse Trail Corridor), and resources to work in close coordination with other related departments and advisory groups. (p. 23)**
- 5) Request appropriate staff conduct an analysis of all congregate facilities located in close proximity to transmission pipelines; Work with other emergency response agencies to develop a list of resources for emergency and evacuation planning expertise for congregate facilities near pipelines that can include potential hazards from a pipeline incident, and mitigation strategies for those hazards based on site-specific considerations. (p. 27)**
- 6) Adopt clear policies and deterrents regarding preventing encroachment including the review of setback variances by municipal advisory councils or committees and department staff, so that properties and vegetation along utility corridors do not encroach on pipelines. (p. 23)**

The Commission is still considering the remaining three recommendations, and will report to you on the outcome of those deliberations in the near future.

Please contact Michael Kent, Executive Assistant to the Hazardous Materials Commission, if you have any questions about these recommendations or why the Commission determined they merited further consideration by you. He can be reached at (925) 313-6587.

Sincerely,

George Smith
Hazardous Materials Commission Chairperson