

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OMBUDSMAN POSITION  
IN THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL  
SAFETY ORDINANCE

- The ombudsperson will serve as a single point of contact for people who live or work in Contra Costa County regarding environmental health concerns, questions, and complaints about hazardous materials programs.

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SAFETY ORDINANCE

- The ombudsperson will be empowered to identify and solve problems and make recommendations to the department. The ombudsperson's role will be one of investigating concerns and complaints, facilitating their resolution and assisting people in gathering information about programs, procedures, or issues.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OMBUDSMAN POSITION IN  
THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL SAFETY  
ORDINANCE

- The ombudsperson may retain appropriate technical experts in order to fulfill technical assistance requests from members of the public. The cost of experts may be funded through programs established by the U.S. EPA or other appropriate entities.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS COMMISSION

- Advisory board established in 1986
- Originally created to develop a Hazardous Waste Management plan
- 13 members
- Representatives from
  - Industry
  - Environmental Groups
  - Organized Labor
  - Cities
  - Other

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION  
ISSUES

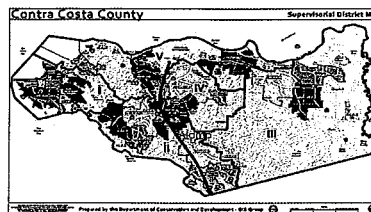
- Industrial Safety Ordinance
  - Land Use permitting
  - Accident Prevention
- Community Warning System
- Environmental Justice
- Brownfield cleanup
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Precautionary Principle
- Pipeline Safety

### 2004 WALNUT CREEK PIPELINE FIRE



Chronicle / Rickstet Highway

### KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE ALONG THE IRON HORSE TRAIL



### KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Being proactive is better than being reactive
- Collaboration is still the way to go
- Trust what residents tell you
- Preparation actually pays off

### CHALLENGES

- The process is time intensive
- Being clear about what is expected from presenters and taking the time to coordinate
- Did it address what people wanted to know?
  - Are we doing everything possible to prevent accidents?
  - Are we prepared to respond to accidents?

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Furthered Commission goal of community education
  - Precautionary Principle
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Home-generated Pharmaceutical Disposal
- Reviewing recommendations from PST report
- Other County Supervisors interested in workshops in their Districts
- Opens doors to future collaboration