

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes Operations Committee

October 13, 2017

Members and Alternates

Present: Rick Alcaraz, Fred Glueck, Steve Linsley, Leslie Stewart, Matt Rinn (alternate)

Absent Ralph Sattler, Lara Delaney (represented by alternate)

Staff: Michael Kent

Members of the Public: None

- 1) **Call to order, announcements:** Commissioner Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Michael Kent announced:

- The next annual meetings with County Supervisors are with Supervisor Andersen on November 2nd and Supervisor Glover on November 6th.
- The Commission is considering the idea of moving the final meeting of the year from December 7th to November 30th so it won't conflict with the Mayors Conference end-of-year meeting, contingent on that date working for the Air Resources Board, who is coming to discuss AB 617.

- 2) **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes for the September 8, 2017 meeting were moved by Commissioner Glueck seconded by Commissioner Alcaraz and approved 3 – 0 -2 with Commissioners Glueck and Rinn abstaining.

Commissioner Rinn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, to add an emergency agenda item b to New Business which was to discuss the funding levels for the US Chemical Safety Board in the Federal budget because decisions on the budget could be imminent. The motion passed 5 – 0.

- 3) **Public Comments:** None

4) Old Business

a) Discussion of school siting criteria for risks from hazardous materials

The committee reviewed all the information they had received and discussed about this issue up till this point.

Commissioner Glueck felt that it is a little out of the County's control, but the best way to get School Districts to be willing to think about the risks from hazardous materials when siting schools is to get them to commit to working with the local jurisdictions to mitigate risks during the initial siting process. They need to work with the local Planning Commissions to pick good sites in the first place.

Commissioner Stewart thought that guidelines need to be established for hazardous materials risks from rail and industry facilities similar to those that have been established for pipelines. Also, a process should be established that would require a baseline risk assessment to be completed when a proposal is made to rebuild a school on the same site, to be used to develop mitigation measures in the rebuilding process.

The committee agreed with Commissioner Stewart's idea, and debated whether it made more sense to try to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they try to incorporate this idea into a local ordinance, or that they recommend the Board write a letter to the California Department of Education to consider these concepts in their current review of the State regulations pertaining to school siting criteria. They agreed to recommend to the full commission that at this time they ask the Board of Supervisors to make recommendations to the California Department of Education, but that if the California Department of Education doesn't adequately address these issues to consider recommending a local ordinance. The committee did not take a formal vote on the issue.

5) New Business

a) Review language in Environmental Seat Application Notification for Environmental Justice criteria and develop schedule for recommending candidates.

At the September 28, 2017 Commission meeting the Commission voted unanimously to add a qualification for candidates for the Environmental seats that they have an understanding of, and a commitment to, the principals of Environmental Justice. The committee discussed this language and noted that there is no universally accepted definition of Environmental Justice. As a result, they directed staff to add a phrase to the new qualification in the applicant announcement so it would read, "Have an understanding of, and a commitment to, the principles of Environmental Justice as defined in County Policy".

The committee then decided to open a recruitment period for the open Environmental and Environmental Engineer Seat (and their alternates) starting on October 23, to close it on November 17th, and to conduct interviews with qualified candidates at the December 8th Operations committee meeting.

b) Discussion of funding for the US Chemical Safety Board

The Committee discussed the fact that in the Federal budget proposed by the President last spring, the operating budget for the US Chemical Safety Board (CSB) was eliminated. However, as of the date of the committee meeting, the budget in place and being proposed by the US Congress still included funding for the CSB. The committee discussed the history and purpose of the CSB, the support its creation received from then Congressman Miller and the County Board of Supervisors, and its involvement in 4 cases in Contra Costa County.

Commissioner Glueck made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Alcaraz, to recommend that the full Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they direct their Federal lobbyist to lobby for the continuation of the CSB's current budget. The motion passed 5 – 0.

6) Reports from Commissioners on Matters of Commission Interest: None

7) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00

