

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes **Operations Committee**

March 11, 2016

Members and Alternates

Present: Rick Alcaraz, Fred Glueck, Leslie Stewart, Usha Vedagiri

Absent: Ralph Sattler,

Staff: Michael Kent

Members of the Public: None

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

Michael Kent announced:

- The next CAER Safety Summit will be on March 17th at the Shell Clubhouse in Martinez at 7:30 am till noon.
- The Commission meeting with Supervisor Andersen went well and she asked that the Pipeline Safety Trust report be referred to the Board's Transportation, Water and Infrastructure committee.
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District will be holding an open house for their proposed Planning Health Places guidelines on March 17th at 2:30 at their offices in San Francisco.
- The County is looking into possible air contamination at a Head Start site on Brookside Ave. in Richmond from an abandoned oil pipeline leak near the site. The Health Department has asked the responsible party to collect air samples from the building, and the results should be available by the end of the month.
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has devoted an additional \$500,000 to a program started last year in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties for municipalities to exchange gas-powered lawn and garden equipment for battery-powered equipment.

- 2) **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes for the December 11, 2015 meeting were moved by Commissioner Glueck seconded by Commissioner Alcaraz, and approved 3-0-1 with Commissioner Vedagiri abstaining.

- 3) **Public Comments:** None

- 4) **Old Business:** None

5) New Business

a) Election of committee chairperson and vice chairperson

Commissioner Alcaraz nominated Commissioner Stewart for Chair. Commissioner Glueck seconded the nomination. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Commissioner Stewart nominated Commissioner Glueck for vice chair. Commissioner Vedagiri seconded the nomination. The motion passed 4 – 0.

b) Discussion of Committee activities for the year This item was postponed.

c) Consider support for an EPR-styled pharmaceutical collection ordinance for Contra Costa County

Staff reviewed the history of the Commission's involvement with this issue, and reviewed the format of the Alameda County Ordinance that Contra Costa County is generally considering emulating.

Commissioner Vedagiri expressed concern that it would be difficult to show the impact on either the environment or on drug abuse prevention by developing an expanded pharmaceutical collection system for the County, and wanted to know how success is being measured in these types of programs. Michael Kent responded that success is mainly measured by how much unused material is collected.

Commissioner Glueck commented that he was concerned that developing a new program would create a whole new bureaucracy within government that might not be effective.

Commissioner Stewart made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commission that they consider supporting the ordinance. Commissioner Glueck seconded the motion with the understanding that he was only doing so, so the full Commission could discuss the issue, but it would come back again to the Operations Committee for further discussion. The motion passed 4 -0 as amended.

The committee also asked that representatives from Alameda County that are implementing their program be invited to the next full Commission meeting to respond to questions about implementation of their program.

6) Reports from Commissioners on Matters of Commission Interest: Commissioner Glueck said that an issue that has concerned him of late is the question of how will all the solar panels being installed around the County (and country for that matter) be recycled or disposed of when they reach the end of their life, and will there be hazardous materials concerns as part of this. He would like this considered as part of the committees priority setting exercise at the next meeting.

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