

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes **Operations Committee**

February 13, 2015

Members and Alternates

Present: Rick Alcaraz, Fred Glueck, Ralph Sattler, Leslie Stewart

Absent: Henry Clark, Don Tatzin

Staff: Michael Kent

Members of the Public: Paul Seffrood

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

Michael Kent announced:

- He attended the California Department of Public Health Climate Action Team meeting in Sacramento last week and heard a very good presentation on cultural humility from the City of Portland.
- The State Refinery Safety Task Force is holding the second in their series of public meetings in Crockett on March 26th. The topics will be the Community Warning System and the shipment of crude oil by rail.

Commissioner Sattler shared articles on the Shell oil spill and a train spill of ethanol. He also announced that the Martinez CERT team recently did a training of over 100 people.

Commissioner Alcaraz announced that Chevron's new community relations manager is Patricia Canessa.

2) Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the January 9, 2015 meeting were moved by Commissioner Glueck, seconded by Commissioner Sattler and approved 4 – 0.

3) Public Comments: None

4) Old Business:

a) Update on the pharmaceutical disposal Issue

The legality of the Alameda County Ordinance is still under appealed to the US Supreme Court by the pharmaceutical industry after the Federal Appeals Court upheld it earlier in 2014. There is no timeline for determining when they will decide to hear the case or not.

At a meeting last week of the regional HHW facilities, Heidi Sanborn of the California Products Stewardship Council said that her efforts to get pharmacies in East Contra Costa County to agree to install collection bins in their pharmacies has not been successful. She received a grant from the Rose Foundation, along with the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, to purchase the bins for pharmacies. She said the reason pharmacies are not interested is that the cost of collection is too high. The recently passed DEA regulations that allow pharmacies to collect unused pharmaceuticals, including controlled substances, only allows licensed reverse distributors to collect controlled substances, and no local reverse distributors are interested. The only reverse distributor they could find that was interested was in Sacramento, and therefore their rate was very high. She said she would continue to look for pharmacies that may be interested, and will continue to seek out a local reverse distributor to offer the collection service.

b) Update on implementation of the County's Environmental Justice Policy by County Departments.

Staff sent a letter to the heads of the Health Public Works, Planning and Agriculture Departments in early January asking them to respond to the series of questions the committee developed at their last meeting. He met with the Directors of the Agriculture and Public Works Department last week and they promised to provide written responses before the next meeting. He is scheduled to meet with the Directors of the Health Department and the Department of Conservation and Development next week.

5) New Business:

a) Review of application of Environmental Seat Alternate Position

The committee reviewed the application of Peter Dragovich for the open Environmental Seat Alternate position. This is the alternate for the Environmental Seat held by Commissioner Clark. The committee decided they wanted to interview Mr. Dragovich at their next committee meeting and directed staff to extend an invitation to him for an interview.

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

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