

Contra Costa County
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSON

Final Minutes
April 27, 2006

Members and Alternates Present: Sabiha Gokcen, Chair, Henry Clark, Stephen Linsley, Jimmy Rodgers, Teng Chung Wu, Howard Adams (alternate), Ric Bonner (alternate), Christine Huff (alternate), Dave Hudson (alternate) Marj Leeds (alternate), George Smith (alternate), Leslie Stewart (alternate),

Absent: Pam Aguilar, Jim Payne, Michael Shimansky, Scott Anderson (represented by alternate), Sharon Fuller (represented by alternate), Don Grant (represented by alternate), Scott Perkins (represented by alternate)

Staff: Michael Kent, Randy Sawyer,

Public: None

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Gokcen called the meeting to order at 4:15p.m.

Announcements and Introductions:

Michael Kent announced:

- The Chevron Treatment Storage and Disposal permit issued by DTSC is up for renewal
- Dow is holding their Wetland Fair on May 6th.
- There will be an upcoming workshop on Chemical Sensitivity.
- May 18th the Center for Creative Land Recycling is holding a workshop on Brownfield funding opportunities

- Commissioner Clark announced that the West County Toxics Coalition and other organizations are putting on a workshop about health disparities in West County on June 10th in North Richmond
- Commissioner Wu announced that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is holding a workshop on the new Regional stormwater permit on May 10th.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The March 23, 2006 minutes were approved. Commissioner Bonner made the motion to approve with Commissioner Wu seconding the motion. The vote was 7-0-1, with Commissioners Rodgers abstaining.

3. Public Comments:

None

4. Hazardous Materials Programs Report:

Randy Sawyer, Director of the Hazardous Materials Programs, could not attend and Cho Nai Cheung gave the report in his place:

- The Board of Supervisors accepted the Environmental Impact Report that was completed on the proposed amendments to the Industrial Safety Ordinance.
- An job announcement has been posted for an Assistant Director's position for the Hazardous Materials Programs, and will close May 12, 2006.
- The Board of Supervisors approved the creation of an entry-level Accidental Release Prevention Engineer position.
- New State law is requiring the County to adopt new drug lab clean-up standards, which are a modification of Sacramento County's procedures.
- The initial assessment of the cause of the chemical release at Shell on March 26 that led to a Shelter-in-place advisory being issued for parts of Martinez is preliminarily being attributed to an upset at their Sulfur Recover Unit. The Root Cause Analysis is not completed yet.
- They plan to post the Root Cause Analysis and the 30-day report for the March 26 Shell incident on the County's website.

5. Operations Committee Report:

Michael Kent reported that the planned presentation from the Office of Emergency Services was postponed because the presenter was ill.

The other topic of the meeting was a discussion of Commission attendance. This issue will be discussed further today as item 8d.

6. Planning and Policy Development Committee Report:

Michael Kent reported that the committee heard a presentation from Elisa Wilfong from the Contra Costa Clean Water Program concerning their involvement in the creation of a regional stormwater permit that would replace the current stormwater permit for Contra Costa County. The committee invited her to attend to get a local perspective on this issue, after previously having a representative from the Regional Water Quality Control Board make a presentation. The committee has been learning about this issue to decide if they want select it as an issue for further consideration.

The committee then heard a presentation from Sustainable Moraga concerning battery collection. Sustainable Moraga has set up a volunteer-run battery collection program in Moraga, but has

found that they cannot sustain it on their own. They want the Commission to encourage the Board of Supervisors to support government-run collection systems.

Finally, the committee discussed the issue of Commission attendance, that will be further discussed today as item 8d.

7. Old Business:

None.

8. New Business:

a) Review and discussion of the emergency response to the March 26 accidental release from the Shell refinery

Michael Kent reviewed the answers to the 16 questions in the emergency response survey the Commission has developed. Commissioner Huff felt that the issue of resounding the sirens was important. She felt that the sirens needed to be resounded more frequently and the County needs to let people know that when they hear multiple sirens, that there is a serious problem.

The whole Commission was very concerned to learn about the delays in the use of the Telephone Emergency Notification System, the National Weather System radios, and the Emergency Alert Notification system. They asked for a status update at the next Commission meeting. The chair directed the Operations committee to further discuss the issue of the siren resounding.

b) Review and discussion of the telephone survey of residents advised to Shelter-In-Place after the March 26 accidental release from the Shell refinery

The results of this survey, conducted by the Evans/McDonough Company, were presented by Roger Chang. They surveyed 455 residents living in the area where the shelter-in-place advisory was in effect. The survey asked approximately 55 questions aimed at understand whether the respondent knew what the Community Warning System was used for, how to shelter-in-place, and what they did during the incident.

c) Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors concerning battery collection programs in Contra Costa County, as proposed by Sustainable Moraga

This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

d) **Discussion and recommendation to the Internal Operations Committee of the Board of Supervisors concerning Commission attendance and by-law attendance requirements, as requested by the Internal Operations Committee of the Board of Supervisors**

Michael Kent reviewed that when the Commission recently requested several changes and additions to the membership of the Commission to the Internal Operations committee (IOC) several questions were raised by the IOC concerning Commission attendance. The IOC requested a report back from the Commission concerning their attendance, and in the meantime did not want to address the membership requests. Both committees of the Commission reviewed the attendance records from the past 18 months, the Commission by-laws and guidelines concerning attendance and the steps the Commission had taken to fill vacancies at their last committee meetings and felt satisfied that there is not a significant problem. These sentiments were echoed by various Commissioners again, and the Commission felt that the IOC should be satisfied when presented with this information. The Commission decided against making any fundamental changes to the Commission bylaws or practices.

9. Items of Interest:

The Commission decided to hold their next individual meeting with Supervisor Piepho and that Commissioners Anderson, Perkins and Gordon would be asked to attend.

10. Plan Next Agenda:

Possible presentation on Brownfields.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.