



From: Leslie Stewart, Chair  
Hazardous Materials Commission

Date: October 11, 2000

Subject: Environmental Justice Report from the Hazardous Materials Commission

SPECIFIC REQUEST(S) OR RECOMMENDATION(S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

**Recommendation:**

ACCEPT the Report on Environmental Justice from the Hazardous Materials Commission.

ENDORSE the County's application of environmental justice as defined in California Government Code Sec. 65040.12, which states, "... 'environmental justice' means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

**Background:**

On June 2, 1999, the Commission provided an update to the Board of Supervisors on its activities with regard to environmental justice, including the status of its Report to the Board. The attached Report provides the background to the Commission's work, which is rooted in its development of the County's Hazardous Waste Plan in the 1980's. The Commission considered County programs and demographics, local, state and federal environmental justice policies, and research and reports on environmental justice issues in preparing its report and recommendation. The Report and recommendation are a basic, first step towards the County's addressing the subject.

**Fiscal Impact:**  
None.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES      SIGNATURE Leslie M. Stewart

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR       RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE  
 APPROVE       OTHER

SIGNATURE(S): Judith Green

ACTION OF BOARD ON October 24, 2000      APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED  OTHER   
See Addendum for Board action

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS  
 UNANIMOUS (ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_)  
AYES: \_\_\_\_\_ NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN.

Contact Person: Elnor Blake 370-5022

CC: Health Services Director  
Hazardous Materials Commission (via HSD)

ATTESTED October 24, 2000  
PHIL BATCHELOR, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
BY Ann Casella DEPUTY

ADDENDUM TO ITEM D.3  
OCTOBER 24, 2000

On this date, the Board of Supervisors considered accepting the report on environmental justice from the Hazardous Materials Commission and considered endorsing the County's application of environmental justice with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Eleanor Blake, Environmental Health Services, presented the staff report. Leslie Steward, Chair, Hazardous Materials Commission, presented the report from the Commission.

The following persons presented testimony:

Sharon Fuller, 420 Pebble Drive, Suite E, El Sobrante, Director of Myat Youth Academy, in support of the County's adoption of environmental justice principles;

Denny Larson, 1611 Telegraph, #450, Oakland, representing Citizens for a Better Environment, in support of accepting the principles;

Henry Clark, 1019 Macdonald, Richmond, Executive Director of the West County Toxics Coalition, and Chair of the Operations Committee of the Hazardous Materials Commission, in support of the adoption of the environmental justice principles;

Thomas Zimmerman, 2 Marina Boulevard #6D-15, Pittsburg, representing Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board, urged the Board to accept the report;

Peter McGaw, 1676 N. California Boulevard, Walnut Creek, in support of environmental justice;

Debbi Landshoff, 6016 Orchard Avenue, Richmond, representing the Sierra Club, urged acceptance of the report;

John Dalrymple, Executive Director of the Labor Council in Contra Costa County, in support of the environmental justice report acceptance;

Paulette Lagana, P.O. Box 1128, Pittsburg, representing CAP-IT, in support of the report.

All persons desiring to speak having been heard, the Board discussed the issues. Supervisor Gioia expressed thanks to the Hazardous Materials Commission for their efforts on this issue and he expressed a need for direction to have County staff from various departments available to meet with the Commission relative to implementation.

Supervisor Canciamilla expressed concurrence with Supervisor Gioia and suggested a Board Committee to work as a sounding board and a clearinghouse for information between sources and the Board.

Supervisor DeSaulnier commented that the report was good and that Supervisor Uilkema and he had worked on a similar proposal at the Air District and he commented on other agencies dealing with the issue and he suggested referring to the County

Administrator the covering of appropriate departments to look at implementation and have communication between the Board and the Air District and CAL EPA.

Supervisor Uilkema thanked the Hazardous Materials Commission for their report and she commented that she looked at what the Board was being asked to approve was defining what it is that is being talked about and that she accepted that interpretation. She also discussed having a timetable before convening everyone for desired and achievable goals.

Supervisor Gioia moved to accept the report and definition of environmental justice, to direct the County Administrator's Office to assemble the appropriate County Departments to work with the Hazardous Materials Commission to explore the implementation of environmental justice principles and the further development of policies related to the application of environmental justice, and to establish a Board sub-committee on environmental justice to work with the County Administrator's Office and the Hazardous Materials Commission.

Supervisor Uilkema requested incorporation by the County Administrator's Office of a timetable back to the Board so that everyone is aware of what is going on.

Supervisor Gioia concurred that the timetable could be incorporated in the development of a process, and he included the designation of the Supervisors from Districts I and V on the sub-committee.

Supervisor DeSaulnier seconded the motion.

IT IS BY THE BOARD ORDERED that the report on Environmental Justice from the Hazardous Materials Commission is ACCEPTED; the County's application of environmental justice as defined in California Government Code Section 65040.12 is ENDORSED; the County Administrator is DIRECTED to assemble the appropriate County departments to work with the Hazardous Materials Commission to develop and implement policies related to environmental justice, and an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board, consisting of the Supervisors from District I and V, is ESTABLISHED to work with the Board and the County Administrator's office on this issue.