

## **Hazardous Materials Commission**

### **Draft Minutes** Operations Committee

June 11, 2021

#### **Members and Alternates**

**Present:** Marielle Boortz, Audrey Comeaux, Fred Glueck, Sara Gurdian, Steve Linsley, Gabe Quinto, Heather Youngs (alternate), Madeline Kronenberg (alternate)

**Absent:** Rick Alcaraz

**Staff:** Michael Kent, Kim Balmorez

**Members of the Public:** Jan Warren, Vaughun Gunkelman

- 1) **Call to order, announcements:** Commissioner Glueck called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Michael Kent announced:

- The next annual Supervisor meeting will be with Supervisor Gioia on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.
- The Treated Wood Waste legislation, AB 332, will heard by the Senate Environmental Quality committee on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Quinto announced that he attended a Phillips 66 presentation on their reformulation project with Diane Rosino, and they asked to give a presentation to the Mayors Conference.

#### **2) Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 14, 2021 meeting were moved by Commissioner Quinto, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, and approved with corrections by a vote of 6 – 0.

#### **3) Public Comments:**

Jan Warren said that she was concerned about the results of the investigation of the Nustar fire that occurred in October, 2019 and wanted to know if there is going to be any follow-up to the investigation. Commissioner Glueck said that the Board of Supervisors Sustainability committee directed staff to come back to them with an analysis of regulatory options.

#### **4) Old Business:**

##### **a) Continue to develop a Sea Level Rise survey for the public and community-based organizations.**

The committee review the latest draft of the survey developed at the May 27<sup>th</sup> full Commission meeting and had the following comments.

Commissioner Glueck observed that when he attended the Bay Planning Coalition webinar on sea level rise it was hard to tell how many people were really concerned about this issue.

For the introduction, Commissioner Youngs thought that presenting a range of possible sea level rise as a concern was a good idea. Commissioner Boortz and Quinto agreed and thought it help give some context. The committee then reviewed a number of predictions from the 2018 Sea Level Rise Guidance document by the Ocean Protection Council.

Commissioner Glueck made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Comeaux, that the survey should say the Commission is concerned about a predicted rise in sea level by 2040 of 0.5 – 1.8 feet. The motion carried 6 – 0.

#### **5) New Business:**

##### **a) Review recommendations from student interns on school pipeline safety and lithium-ion car battery recycling**

The committee first discussed the recommendations of Erika Hernandez about pipeline safety near schools which were:

- A study be conducted about the relationship between pipelines and schools.
- The maps of pipeline locations be updated.
- Schools be educated about pipeline emergency planning.
- Emergency planning brochures be distributed to schools.
- The Commission write a follow-up letter to the Board of Supervisors about previous and current concerns related to pipeline safety.

Commissioner Glueck said he thought it was hypocrisy to site schools near sources of hazardous materials. Commissioner Kronenberg said she was on the West Contra Costa Unified School District board and facilities committee for many years. She said they made decisions about where to site schools locally. She thought it would be most useful to send information to School Districts who have recently passed bonds to rebuild schools. She also said that when she was on the School Board they didn't really think about whether they were siting schools near pipelines, but they did acknowledge that they were near Chevron when they were rebuilding schools. She added that Chevron offered to purchase asthma inhalers for students at fenceline schools.

The committee decided:

- The Commission should follow-up with the Board of Supervisors about previous recommendations the Commission made concerning school siting guidelines. The first step would be for staff to find out if the County received any response to the letter that was sent to the Superintendent of Schools about completing the school siting guidelines.
- The Commission should distribute the pipeline emergency planning guide for schools that was developed by the Hazardous Materials Program and others to School Districts.

The committee next discussed the recommendations of Kevin Hernandez about lithium-ion car battery recycling which were:

- The Commission should advocate for a Lithium-ion Battery recycling plant in Contra Costa County.
- The Commission should educate community groups on the hazards and potential dangers of these types of batteries.

Commissioner Glueck thought that anywhere a facility is located will cause concern in the surrounding community, and DTSC is not going to change its permitting process.

Commissioner Boortz asked if there is a battery transfer station in either Contra Costa County or in California.

Commissioner Quinto, citing the example of SB54 about plastics, said that even though this recycling bill got passed, it was very hard. So getting a battery recycling facility sited in Contra Costa County is going to be very hard.

The committee directed staff to follow up with the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative to see if they would consider a lithium-ion car battery recycling a “green” business, and to follow-up with the people at UC Davis that have been staffing the DTSC battery advisory group to find out their opinion on how likely and realistic it would be to site a facility in Contra Costa County or California.

**b) Evaluate and develop recommendations for continuation of a Student Seat on the Commission.**

Kim Balmorez, the Health Careers Pathway staff that has been facilitating the current internships, discussed her own impressions of the internships and what the interns shared about their experiences. She thought they both did well and made good presentations. She also thought it would be better to focus on attracting college students because they have more flexibility in their schedules. She also added that she thought the internships were very beneficial for the students. For herself, she didn’t learn much about policy issues until she got to college. She thought it was good that the interns got to see how policy is made and why it takes so long.

She said both interns said they enjoyed the internships and would recommend continuing them. They both liked doing the individual interviews with Commissioners. They thought the flyer

could provide more detail about what the internship would entail. They both thought it would be better to start them earlier and finish them earlier so they wouldn't conflict with finals.

Commissioner Glueck thought it would be good if the interns could talk to their fellow students at school about the work they did with the Commission and the policy development process.

Commissioner Kronenberg thought outreach should be done to all schools and to environmental clubs. She also thought it is important to have two interns so they can exchange ideas with each other during the internship.

It was also noted that it would be a good idea for the topics of the interns research to be shared with the Commissioners earlier in the process so that Commissioners can provide assistance from their own expertise.

Ms. Balmorez agreed she would try to recruit two interns, and she would begin recruitment right after the committee has a chance to review the updated flyer.

- 6) **Plan Next Agenda:** Review the sea level rise survey, received an update on efforts undertaken to address the recommendations by the interns, and review the updated intern flyer.
- 7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.