

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Hazardous Materials Commission

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: Fourth Thursday of every months, 4-6 pm, 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord

Chair: Leslie Stewart, League of Women Voters

Staff: Michael Kent, Contra Costa Health Services

Reporting Period: January-December 2004

ACTIVITIES

The Hazardous Materials Commission's major goals in 2004 were to implement and follow-up on a full-scale self-evaluation process. This two-part retreat was planned and facilitated with the assistance of the County's Training Institute, and was held in March and April of this year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As result of the self-evaluation process, the Commission made several changes to its operating procedures, including re-instituting monthly meetings of the full Commission and amending the Commission's by-laws to include stricter attendance requirements. As a result of the retreat, the Commission developed plans to evaluate emerging issues, involve and inform the Supervisors of Commission activities, and engage the general public in Commission business.

The Commission also educated itself on a number of issues throughout the year including the County's Underground tank program, industrial site security and vulnerability assessments, the EIR on proposed amendments to the Industrial Safety Ordinance, Household Hazardous Waste, and Indoor Air Quality.

In December, the Commission is hosting a panel discussion on the Precautionary Principle, an emerging concept of pollution control and management.

ATTENDANCE/REPRESENTATION

The 13-member Commission has members from organized labor, environmental groups, industry, cities, environmental engineering firms, and the public at large. The Commission has membership from all regions of the County. All seats on the Commission were occupied this year. The Commission held 10 meetings this year, as well as 9 meetings of the Operations subcommittee and 9 meetings of the Planning and Policy Development subcommittee. All of the full Commission meetings obtained a quorum, with an average of 8 of the 13 members or their alternates being present at these meetings.

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

No training or certification was provided or conducted.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

Next year the Commission intends to continue monitoring the Environmental Justice Policy, the pilot project on illegal dumping, and the Hazardous Materials Programs drug lab clean-up policy, as well as how state Environmental Justice policies are applied to the County. The Commission also plans to complete the evaluation of policy options around Indoor Air Quality and Household Hazardous Waste and consider the application of the Precautionary Principle to County policies. The Commission will continue to implement the changes and activities that came out of the self-evaluation process. The Commission will also respond to any requests from the Board of Supervisors and continually evaluate emerging issues, including the Precautionary Principle.