

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION



November 1, 2022

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair
Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
Legislation Committee

RE: Recommended changes to hazardous materials-related policies in the Contra Costa 2023/2024 State Legislative Platform

Dear Chair Burgis and Vice Chair Mitchoff:

I am writing on behalf of the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission to recommend that you make the following changes to the current State Legislative platform for the 2023/2024 platform. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend these changes at their October 27, 2022 Commission meeting.

Climate Change

- ENSURE that the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic supports the following:
 - Technologies that support the County's climate goals, including battery energy storage and microgrids, solar and wind energy, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
 - Energy efficiency programs that encourage whole house retrofits and address asthma triggers in the built environment;
 - Planning work for adapting to rising sea levels;
 - Planning and implementation of microgrids;
 - Active transportation and green infrastructure programs;
 - Job training for careers in clean energy, clean transportation, and green infrastructure.

- SUPPORT actions that: address the impacts of climate change; support climate adaptation and resilience efforts; support the Green Business program; ~~address the disproportionate impacts that some communities bear because they are located near large industrial facilities; reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gases;~~ study and recognize the health impacts of global and regional climate change; and study the economic, workforce and social impacts of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

- SUPPORT resources for local governments to use in addressing impacts ~~of rising water levels caused by a warming-changing climate~~ such as sea level rise, flooding, ground water rise, fires, and power disruptions-

Members: Fred Glueck, Chair, Tim Bancroft, Jonathan Bash, Marielle Boortz, Maureen Brennan, Don Bristol, Ken Carlson, Mark Hughes, Steven Linsley, Jim Payne, Gabe Quinto, Mark Ross, Treston Shull, George Smith

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Air Quality

- SUPPORT actions that cost-effectively reduce exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air pollutants; address the impact that some communities bear because they are located near stationary and/or mobile sources of emissions.

Transportation

- SUPPORT measures to enhance rail safety with an emphasis on; increased state oversight of railroad bridges, funding for first responder training, funding to improve rail safety and prevent rail trespass fatalities, improved regulations for tank car safety standards, impacts from sea-level rise and data sharing requirements between state emergency managers, local responders, and rail operators.

Waste Management

- MAINTAIN the County's existing discretionary authority over matters pertaining to solid or hazardous waste management, recovery and disposal. ENSURE new or expanded responsibilities are not imposed on the County, either directly or indirectly, without providing statutory authority to guarantee funding to implement actions necessary to adequately enforce or comply.

• ~~SUPPORT legislation to provide alternative management standards for the Treated Wood program at the Department of Toxic Substance Control so treated wood could be processed at Class II landfills and transfer stations with a composite line.~~

• ~~SEEK-CONSIDER~~ more robust local regulatory and enforcement authority relative to the storage, transport, processing, recovery and disposal of hazardous or solid waste within our jurisdictional boundaries.

• SUPPORT legislation that prioritizes, incentivizes, and innovates -hazardous and solid waste reduction and reuse practices of the waste hierarchy over traditional recycling.

• ENSURE manufacturers are held accountable for proper end-of-life management of products and packing materials they produce, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps, and veterinary medicine, to create effective producer-~~lead~~ led reduction, reuse and recycling programs and foster more environmentally sustainable product/packaging design and reduce the quantity of harmful pharmaceuticals (including veterinary medicine) that ultimately enter wastewater treatment facilities, bodies of water, and landfills.

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- SUPPORT legislation that protects human health and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and hazardous wastes such as PFAS.

Sincerely,

 MK

Fred Glueck

Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission Chairperson

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