

For the January 20, 2021 Hazardous Materials Commission Planning and Policy Development committee meeting from Susan Psara, Hazardous Materials Program

Suggested Hazardous Materials Programs Environmental Justice Policies/Actions for the update to the County's General Plan:

POLICIES

1. Train staff on environmental justice topics to increase the ability to recognize potential environmental justice issues or implicit bias in the field. Develop department-wide procedures for reporting observed environmental justice issues, and address issues pertinent to Hazardous Materials Programs.
2. Engage with Contra Costa County Department of Conservation, as well as city planning departments, regarding hazardous material/waste considerations during the planning of new business operations in the County. Develop a means for soliciting input from disadvantaged communities on future projects involving hazardous materials/waste that may create a disproportionate impact on the community.

ACTIONS

1. Establish a comprehensive outreach strategy to provide hazardous material program policy information to disadvantaged communities, including considerations related to hazardous materials and hazardous waste storage, permitting, and inspections, environmental monitoring, hazardous materials incident response, industrial safety ordinance and pollution prevention. Identify and leverage established community and industry groups and other synergistic agency programs to disperse outreach and education materials.
2. Identify and designate a communications liaison to ensure that hazardous materials/waste topics are presented to disadvantaged communities in a manner that is easily and clearly comprehensible.
3. Involve community members in 'hands-on' emergency drills to increase public awareness of emergency response capabilities and understand protective actions the public may be required to take should a hazardous materials incident occur in their community (shelter-in-place and evacuation procedures). Ensure all populations, including disadvantaged communities have access to participate in drills – including available language translation services.