

Notes from 2/11/22 HMC Ops meeting on draft letter to TWIC concerning SLR survey

- Low response rate –
- List responses
- Finding – not a lot concern or actions taken to SLR as of this time
- Therefore, there appears to be a need, and so Commission support more outreach and education to business about potential impacts – make connect to the Bd res in support of BA
- Consistent with Bay Adapt Action 3
- Reference the recs that were in the letter the Commission wrote – keep focus on impacts to hazmat. Still want to see action on these recs
- Ensure that these recs get incorporated into gen plan and CAP
- As you support Bay Adapt implementation, make sure we act locally to be compatible with BA goals on action 3
- Commission will continue to monitor, provide input and support County efforts as it relates to hazardous mat.

Draft Letter

Dear TWIC

On behalf of the Hazardous Materials Commission (the Commission) I would like to share with you the results of the survey the Commission conducted with businesses in Contra Costa County that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous waste that may be directly impacted by sea level rise in the future. The xxx businesses sent this survey were identified as using hazardous materials or generating hazardous waste from the records of the County's Hazardous Materials Program. These businesses were determined to be potentially impacted by sea level rise from models developed by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission of areas of the County that will be impacted by sea level rise. Models predicting 77 inches of sea level rise were used for businesses in West and Central County, but 83 inches per year in East Contra Costa County due to differences in the modeling that was done for these areas. This survey was conduct from October 1 – October 22, 2021 and was either mailed to the identified companies or sent to them via e-mail using Survey Monkey.

Twenty out of xxx or xx% of the business that were sent the survey responded. Of those that responded:

- 25% thought the impacts of sea level rise would be significant would be significant on their assets or operations.

- 30% said they have given significant consideration to the impacts of sea level rise.
- 25% had identified any risks to their assets or operations.
- 15% said their planning efforts had included analyzing the impacts to vulnerable communities.
- Of the 5 businesses that said they had identified risks, 3 had taken some measures to address them.
- 35% of the respondents said they thought local government shared in the responsibility to address sea level rise and 35% said they would be interested in engaging with the County government to address the impacts of sea level rise.

The Commission has reviewed these results and believes the response rate was too low for them to be able to draw any firm conclusions. While the Commission was disappointed in these results, it believes the information collected was useful, and has following comments.

- Based upon the low return rate to this survey, businesses that handle hazardous materials and generate hazardous wastes that may be potentially impacted by sea level rise in the future don't seem to be very concerned about (*alt lang - very focused on*) these potential future impacts. However, the Commission acknowledges that there may be other reasons why more businesses didn't respond to the survey, and their lack of concern about (or focus on) the issue may just be one of them.
- Of the businesses that did respond to the survey, the low rate (x%) responding that they are taking action to address potential future impacts of sea level rise indicates more efforts to educate businesses about these potential impacts, and the actions that could be taken to mitigate them, is warranted.

Therefore, the Commission supports more efforts by the County to educate and engage businesses using hazardous materials or generating hazardous waste about the potential impacts of sea level rise. On September 13, 2021 the Commission wrote to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure committee (TWIC) concerning the impacts of sea level rise on the storage, use and transportation of hazardous waste and hazardous materials in Contra Costa County (attached). One of the recommendations in that letter (#4) encouraged TWIC to direct County Staff to coordinate, and plan with other stakeholders in the County, a summit to begin establishing a county-wide effort to address the potential impacts of sea level rise. The Commission still believes this is an important recommendation to implement.

This recommendation is also consistent with the recent resolution (2022/52) adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 8, 2022 to support the Bay Conservation and Development Commission-led Bay Adapt Regional Strategy to address sea level rise. The letter of support for Bay Adapt Regional Strategy said the Board of Supervisors would support the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by concentrating on implementing policies and programs in our county that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to rising water levels, particularly in our frontline communities, and identifying opportunities to fund this work. The Commission believes a County-wide summit

supported by the Board of Supervisors would be an excellent way to draw attention to this issue, and could be the catalyst needed to get county-wide coordination and planning off the ground.

The Commission also believes the other recommendations made in their September 13, 2021 letter should still be implemented. These recommendations could be acted on immediately or could be incorporated into the goals and policies of the County's General Plan and Climate Action Plan that are currently being updated. These other recommendations are also consistent with the Bay Adapt Regional Strategy's goal of connecting local actions to regional policies.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide this information to you, and will continue to monitor, provide input to and support County efforts to address the impacts of sea level rise on the storage, use and transportation of hazardous waste and hazardous materials in Contra Costa County. Please direct any questions you have to Michael Kent, Executive Assistant to the Hazardous Materials Commission, (925) 250-3227.

Sincerely,

Fred Glueck

Hazardous Materials Commission Chairperson