

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION



October 27, 2020

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Legislation Committee
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, District IV, Chair
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Supervisor Mitchoff:

I am writing on behalf of the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission to provide our input on the County's State and Federal Legislative platforms. We unanimously voted at our October 22, 2020 Commission meeting to recommend the following changes and additions to the platforms. Changes are presented in a strikeout/underline format to the 2020 Legislative platforms. Completely new additions are presented in **bold**.

2020 State Platform

PRINCIPLES AND POLICY STATEMENTS

Climate Change

- SUPPORT legislative and administrative efforts 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; ~~and~~ 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.

Transportation

- SUPPORT efforts to increase waterborne transport of goods, in particular relative to the San Francisco to Stockton Ship Channel, that include provisions to do so with adequate environmental review.
- SUPPORT measures to enhance the safety of rail transportation of hazardous materials ~~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, funding to improve the rail system to address the impacts of Sea Level Rise, improved regulations for tank car safety standards for hazardous materials, funding for enforcement, data sharing requirements between state emergency managers, local responders, and rail operators, support for improved partnerships between state and federal regulators, and addressing the enhanced hazard from

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incompatible hazardous materials being stored or transported in proximity to each other. (Also add to Federal Platform)

2020 Federal Legislative Platform

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Climate Change

- SUPPORT legislative and administrative efforts 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; ~~and~~ 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.

THE FOLLOWING MEASURE SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE STATE PLATFORM:

School Siting

- **SUPPORT legislative efforts that reduce the risk to students from the accidental release of hazardous materials by requiring risk assessments that account for all sources of hazardous materials as part of school siting and re-building decisions.**

THE FOLLOWING MEASURE SHOULD BE ADDED TO FEDERAL PLATFORM:

Transportation

- **SUPPORT measures to enhance the safety of rail transportation of hazardous materials 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, funding to improve the rail system to address the impacts of Sea Level Rise, improved regulations for tank car safety standards for hazardous materials, funding for enforcement, data sharing requirements between state emergency managers, local responders, and rail operators, support for improved partnerships between state and federal regulators, and addressing the enhanced hazard from incompatible hazardous materials being stored or transported in proximity to each other.**

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THE FOLLOWING MEASURES SHOULD BE ADDED TO BOTH PLATFORMS:

Land Use

- **SUPPORT legislative efforts to evaluate, clean up and redevelop contaminated sites.**

Pipeline Safety

- **SUPPORT legislative efforts that increase the safety of the shipment of hazardous materials by pipeline through better monitoring, technical seismic vulnerability studies, leak detection, operational practices and equipment.**

Goods Movement

- **SUPPORT legislative efforts to increase and improve waterborne transportation of goods when it increases safety.**

Waste Management

- **SUPPORT legislation that protects human health and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.**
- **SUPPORT legislative efforts that establish producer responsibility for management at the end of their useful life of products, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps and veterinary medicine.**
- **SUPPORT legislative efforts that reduce the quantity of harmful pharmaceuticals (including veterinary medicine) that ultimately enter wastewater treatment facilities, bodies of water, and landfills.**

Sincerely,



George Smith,

Chairperson, Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission

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