

**Santa Cruz County
Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission
2014-15 Biennial Report**

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission (HMAC) was established under the authority of government Code Section 31000.1, in compliance with Section 2.38.060 of the Santa Cruz County Code. Pursuant to Section 2.92.050, the HMAC is empowered to advise the Board of Supervisors on the initial and continuous implementation of the County's Hazardous Materials Ordinance. This includes effective methods of providing the public with information on all other matters pertaining to the use, transportation, handling and storage of toxic materials in the County. Additionally in August 2010, the Board of Supervisors repealed Chapter 2.112, thereby abolishing the Hazardous Materials Appeals Commission, and amended Chapter 7.100 to establish the HMAC as the body responsible for hearing and deciding permit appeals related to suspended or revoked Hazardous Materials permits.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

HMAC meetings are held every fourth Wednesday (except the November meeting which is held on the third Wednesday) on a bi-monthly schedule (January, March, May, July, September, November). The meetings are typically held at 9:00 a.m. at the Central Fire District Headquarters, located at 930 17th Avenue in Santa Cruz.

The mailing address for the HMAC is in care of the Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Services at 701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA.

MEETING TOPICS

Throughout the past two years, many topics related to hazardous materials were discussed. The Commission continued to closely follow several topics related to the goals of the Commission including new statewide legislation that may have potential impacts to the hazardous materials program; the ongoing implementation of statewide hazardous materials electronic reporting requirements; results and findings of the triennial Cal EPA evaluation of the EHS Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) inspection and enforcement programs; and operations related to the County household hazardous waste collection facilities.

In addition, numerous guest speakers have attended meetings to present information related to topics of interest and the goals of the Commission. Speaker topics included the design and installation of greywater systems; a new ion exchange groundwater treatment system being used to remove hexavalent chromium from local groundwater sources; the CCLEAN surface water monitoring program for tracking sources of contaminants found in local streams and ocean waters; the County Agricultural Commissioner's Pesticide Use Enforcement program; and the EHS Site Mitigation program.

Commissioner Harden served as Chair of the Commission through September 2014 when Commissioner Bracamonte was appointed. Commissioner Bennett was appointed to the position of Vice Chair at the September 2014 meeting.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The HMAc consists of 11 Commissioners, all residents of Santa Cruz County who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. There are currently three vacant positions on the Commission. Following is a list of the current HMAc positions and representatives:

Jacques Bertrand	City of Capitola Representative
Robert Young	City of Santa Cruz Representative
Ron Whittle	City of Scotts Valley Representative
Tom Avila	City of Watsonville Representative
Steven Bennett	Community Representative (Vice Chair)
Ralph Bracamonte	Community Representative (Chair)
Vacant	Chemist
Jeannie Logan	Environmental Interests
Vacant	Fire Protection
Vacant	Industry
Vacant	Labor
Tim Fillmore	Staff to Commission

ATTENDANCE

See Attachment A

ACOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMISSION

1. Continued to monitor hazardous materials and environmental issues related to legislative changes to assess their impact on the Santa Cruz County local programs.
2. Continued to monitor and follow activities related to the County's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Program, including a review of the program annual reports.
3. Monitored the countywide implementation of hazardous materials electronic reporting requirements and potential impacts to local businesses.
4. Continued to follow the implementation of county ordinance Chapter 7.79 relating to stormwater runoff and pollution control.
5. Followed the current status of greywater collection and reuse systems within the county and potential environmental issues related to improper installation or maintenance of such systems.
6. Reviewed the final Cal EPA evaluation report and findings of the May 2014 triennial CUPA program evaluation.
7. Followed the installation of a new groundwater treatment system for removal of hexavalent chromium from drinking water wells in the Aptos area.
8. Kept up to date on the Environmental Health Division's ongoing environmental investigation and oversight of an environmental monitoring program at a local outdoor shooting range.

2015 Goals of the Commission

1. Monitor the ongoing implementation of required electronic reporting requirements and the development of the California Reporting System (CERS) following the January 1, 2013 deadline for businesses to begin reporting hazardous materials information via CERS.

2. Monitor Universal Waste recycling and disposal efforts with an emphasis on residential waste streams.
3. Monitor the following pesticide and agricultural chemical related issues:
 - Stormwater runoff issues including potential impacts to marine life and the local watershed.
 - Issues related to local watershed monitoring programs.
 - Ongoing efforts to control or eliminate legacy organochlorine pesticides such as PCB, chlordane and others in the environment.
4. Track Level II hazardous materials response capabilities and track the kinds of incidents and problems that may arise out of the MOU's implementation
5. Monitor hazardous materials and environmental issues related to legislative changes to assess their impact on Santa Cruz County.
6. Review the existing Chapter 7.100 of the Santa Cruz County Code regulating Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Waste and Underground Storage Tanks and make recommendations for necessary updates or additions as needed.
7. Track efforts by the State Assembly to enact legislation to regulate hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" as an oil production technology in California.
8. Monitor potential environmental concerns due to proposed changes in use of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line after the recent purchase of the line by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.
9. Track proposed changes to State drinking water standards and treatment technologies, including the proposed development of a new standard for chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium) by the California Department of Public Health.

ATTACHMENT A

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE ROSTER - 2014

MEMBERS	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
STEVEN BENNETT			E		P		E		P			
RALPH BRACAMONTE			P		P		P		P			
JIM CROWLEY			P		P		P		P			
STEVEN JESBERG			P		P		P		P			R
GREG HARDEN			P		P		E		P			
JEANNIE LOGAN			P		P		P		P			
STEVEN TRONICK			E		E		P		P			
MIKE VENEZIO			P		P		E		E			
RON WHITTLE			P		P		P		E			

* Both the January and November Meetings were cancelled in 2014.

P = PRESENT

E = EXCUSED

A = ABSENT

R = RESIGNED

ATTACHMENT A

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE ROSTER - 2015

MEMBERS	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
STEVEN BENNETT	P		P		P							
RALPH BRACAMONTE	P		P		P							
JACQUES BERTRAND	E		E		P							
JIM CROWLEY	P		P		R							
BOB MARTIN DEL CAMPO					P				R			
GREG HARDEN	P		E		E						R	
JEANNIE LOGAN	P		P		P							
STEVEN TRONICK	P		E		R							
MIKE VENEZIO	E		R									
ROBERT YOUNG			P		P							
RON WHITTLE	P		P		P							

* The July, September, and November 2015 meetings were cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

P = PRESENT

E = EXCUSED

A = ABSENT

R = RESIGNED