



County of Santa Cruz

0459

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 950604073

(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 4543128 TDD: (831) 4544123

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

November 30, 1999

AGENDA: December 14, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: REPORT REGARDING STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM

Dear Board Members:

On June 22, 1999, your Board accepted and filed our report regarding County Policies Regulating the Storage and Frequency of **Inspections** of Agricultural Hazardous Materials. At that time, the Health Service Agency Environmental Health Service (**EHS**) was directed to report back to the Board on or before December 14, 1999 regarding the status of implementation of the program within the agricultural community. This report has been prepared in order to summarize the issue and outline the progress since June.

State Laws and Local Ordinance have been in place since the late 1980's which require the regulation of hazardous materials for all businesses including farms. Extending enforcement of these requirements to farm settings has been a evolutionary activity due to resource limitations, unrelated demands placed on EHS by the California Environmental Protection Agency (**CalEPA**), and the need for prioritization of more immediate enforcement efforts. With many farming operations handling, storing, and using hazardous substances in excess of State established thresholds (55 gallons of a liquid, 200 cubic feet of a gas, and 500 pounds of a solid at Standard Temperature and Pressure) implementation of this portion of the overall regulatory program was not only indicated but in a State audit last October of the county's Hazardous Materials program, Environmental Health staff were advised that failure to enact the program would result in an audit deficiency at the next review. Monterey County is in the process of extending their agriculture program on approximately the same schedule as Santa Cruz. San Mateo has had an agricultural element in place for several years.

In cooperation with the Farm Bureau of Santa Cruz County, their consultant, and the Santa Cruz County Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission, EHS has developed the following plan for implementation:

Phase One of the plan will involve only those farming operations that exceed the previously noted State thresholds.

EHS has delayed the deadline for submittal of the required Hazardous Materials Management Plan (**HMMP**) from December 31, 1999, to July 1, 2000. The new date will allow implementation of the program to coincide more closely with the "8 month amnesty" portion of the Free Collection of Used Motor Oil, Filters, and Soiled Oil Containers Program (for small growers in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties) currently underway. The Used Motor Oil Program is being managed by Ecology Action and funded through a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. It is expected that participants will dispose of, without charge, hundreds of thousands of gallons of stockpiled waste oil.

Participants have been assured that no enforcement action will be taken against those who may be out of compliance with current storage and labeling regulations.

Before the end of 1999 EHS will complete a mass mailing, informing the farming community of the legal requirement to submit an HMMP and of the Free Collection Program. EHS staff, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau, will schedule time at the Farm Bureau offices to provide assistance to farmers in completing the HMMP application. Staff are also available on an appointment basis to make site visits to assist farmers in completing the forms.

For farmers who wish to get an early start, EHS is now accepting HMMP applications and delaying all billing of fees until after July 1, 2000. The advantage to submitting an HMMP now is that some farming operations are less busy during the winter months.

Additionally, EHS has prepared "sample" forms for those chemicals most likely to be found on farms. These samples are intended to assist applicants with some of the less obvious, chemical specific, information that may not be readily available to them.

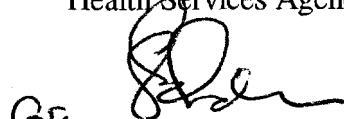
Finally, at the end of the first year after implementation of Phase One (approximately July 1, 2001), EHS will evaluate the need to require "Short Form" HMMPs from farming operations which fall below the State's thresholds, but who would otherwise be regulated by the County's Chapter 7.100.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board: 1) accept and file this report; and 2) direct Environmental Health Services to implement the Hazardous Materials Management Program within the agricultural community as outlined in this report.

Sincerely,

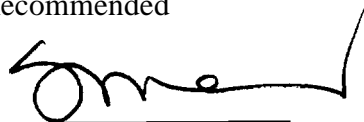


Charles Moody
Health Services Agency Administrator



Diane Evans, R.E.H.S.
Environmental Health Director

Recommended



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: CAO
County Counsel
Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission
Health Services Agency