



Alameda County

Hazardous Waste Management Plan

November, 1995

NOTE TO READERS

The original Alameda County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, dated March 1989, was approved by local jurisdictions and submitted to the California Department of Health Services (now Cal EPA - Department of Toxic Substances Control) in 1989. The DHS did not approve Alameda County's 1989 Plan, or the Plans of 44 other California counties, primarily for the following reasons:

- The inclusion of the Fair Share principle, as defined by the County Supervisors Association of California, which emphasizes local, as opposed to regional, needs for hazardous waste facilities
- The inclusion of a local permitting process in the Plan, which gave DHS some authority over the process
- The Plan's use of facility siting criteria different from those in the DHS Guidelines, without sufficient justification from local adopted plans and policies
- The Plan's lack of maps and designated general areas in which the siting criteria might be applicable

Alameda County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan was revised for resubmission to the DHS under the provision of Assembly Bill 2595 (1990). The 1991 revised Plan was prepared by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority's Hazardous Waste Committee, with the assistance of Authority staff, a technical consultant, and member agencies.

The principal revisions to the Plan were made in Chapters 1, 2, and 9. Chapter 1 is an introduction to and summary of the Plan, and its revisions were made to reflect the changes in Chapters 2 and 9. The policies in Chapter 2 were revised to recognize regional as well as local needs and to condition the Fair Share language upon the existence of an interjurisdictional agreement for hazardous waste management between Alameda County and one or more other jurisdictions. A copy of the 1995 revised version of the interjurisdictional agreement appears in Appendix J. Chapter 9, which included the facility siting process and the siting criteria, was the most extensively revised. The siting process itself was removed, leaving authority with local jurisdictions, and the siting criteria were revised through extensive Committee discussions and negotiations with DTSC. Many of the siting criteria could not be mapped because of insufficient existing information and the small scale of the maps. Those criteria that could be mapped were used to create composite maps showing general areas in which hazardous waste facilities might be located. Much of the narrative of the Plan, as well as hazardous waste management data, was not revised and will reflect the hazardous waste management system as it existed in Alameda County in 1991.

While changes (as described above) were made to Plan chapters 1,2 and 9, much of the narrative and data of the Plan were not modified from the 1991 version. Therefore,

information in the Plan, such as references to existing hazardous waste management programs, or data on hazardous waste generation, will reflect the "state of Alameda County" as it existed in 1990.

Any proposed facility meeting the general criteria will be required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act; any applicable requirements of federal, regional, and local agencies; and the permitting processes and policies of the local jurisdiction. Larger scale maps and field investigations should be used to evaluate specific sites prior to permitting. In addition, local jurisdictions should be contacted to obtain information on local siting criteria and permitting processes. Local criteria may be more stringent than those included in this Plan. The notes that are included at the top of Figures 9-1 through 9-8 list the conditional criteria that each designated area must comply with and are an essential part of these maps. The remaining chapters include the original analysis of hazardous waste generation, existing capacity, facility needs, and implementation; the Committee and DHS agreed that they needed no substantial revisions. In addition, a revised Interjurisdictional Agreement has replaced an earlier version as Appendix J of the Plan. This Agreement assigns the planning for different types of hazardous waste management and disposal facilities to each Bay Area county based on the amount of hazardous waste generated and the county's current capacity to manage or dispose of wastes. The new Agreement lays out the responsibilities of the affected local jurisdiction in the event of a proposal for a hazardous waste management facility.

1995 UPDATE

After years of negotiation, the passage of specialized legislation, and the tenacity of Bay Area local elected officials and county staffs, the Alameda County Hazardous Waste Management Plan was finally approved by the Cal EPA - Department of Toxic Substances Control in March, 1995. All revisions to the Plan that were required for State approval were completed by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority in the following months. Now, in October, 1995, the Final approved Plan is being provided to all cities in Alameda County with the understanding that each City has 180 days from the time the Plan is received to incorporate essential components of the Plan into local planning requirements.

Alameda County is already implementing the primary goal of the HWMP's: to reduce the volume and toxicity of hazardous wastes generated in the Bay Area. As the generation of hazardous waste is reduced and fewer or less onerous hazardous waste management facilities are needed to handle this material, the burden on local governments to site hazardous waste management projects will lessen. Communities that have implemented strong waste reduction programs will also experience multiple savings to local businesses and increased coordination between responsible agencies.

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