

2.0 PURPOSE

The passage of AB 2948 in September of 1986 authorized counties and cities in California to prepare Hazardous Waste Management Plans (HWMPs). Subsequently, every county in the State elected to prepare a plan to manage all hazardous wastes in their respective counties. While extremely beneficial to developing data and developing policies on a county level, these plans are not aimed toward the specific needs of cities. AB 2948 (Chapter 1504, California Annotated Code) therefore provides for cities to elect to prepare their own Hazardous Waste Management Plans provided that such plans are consistent with the adopted county plan.

The Hercules HWMP has been formulated to conform with the federal, state and county hazardous waste laws, policies and regulations, and to bring together in one document waste management strategies for the City of Hercules. It is the intent of the City to develop an integrated approach to hazardous waste management which is workable at a city level and which enhances cooperation between the City and other affected jurisdictions.

This Plan synthesizes data on present and projected hazardous waste generated, stored, treated, transported or disposed of within the City of Hercules. From these data, County, State and Federal hazardous waste management statutes, regulations and existing city ordinances, a set of policy guidelines for hazardous waste management have been formulated (see Chapter 4.0). Based on these policies and existing statutes and ordinances, a variety of implementation measures and city programs are recommended (Chapter 6.0). It is the City of Hercules' intent to establish these policies and programs in order to ensure effective hazardous waste management at the local level, including coordination with existing and evolving county, state and federal programs.

The City will take a two-phased approach toward establishing these programs. The first phase will be adoption of this Plan and revision of appropriate ordinances, and the second phase will be establishment and implementation of the appropriate programs as growth in the generation of hazardous waste in the City makes this necessary and feasible.

3.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Hercules Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP) synthesizes information and formulates policies which make possible achievement of the overall goals of the City and this Plan. Those goals are: 1) to achieve the safe and effective management of hazardous waste within the City of Hercules, and 2) to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment.

This Plan inventories current wastes generated within the City, projects waste generation anticipated for the planning period (to year 2000) and determines specific needs for facilities, policies, regulations and procedures to safely and effectively manage that waste, now and in the future. To accomplish the Plan's goals and the objectives outlined below, a number of city programs are identified within the HWMP.

The objectives of this Hercules City HWMP are as follows:

- o Accept responsibility and develop appropriate planning for the safe and responsible treatment and transfer or disposal of wastes within the city jurisdiction or in coordination with other jurisdictions.
- o Designate prevention of deterioration of public health or the environment caused by hazardous waste as a primary goal of the city government.
- o Adopt policies and targets which restrict further increases in and seek reductions in the volume and toxicity of hazardous waste committed to land disposal.

- o Oppose increases of hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal within the city limits unless such activities are consistent with this Plan, and laws and ordinances of the City of Hercules.
- o Encourage as a first priority, waste minimization and source reduction of existing waste generation facilities.
- o Encourage recycling, reuse and on-site treatment as second priorities for hazardous waste management techniques.
- o Provide strong direction and support to actively enforce laws, regulations and ordinances concerning issuance of permits, inspection, compliance and data availability concerning the generation, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste or the generation, storage and transportation of hazardous materials.
- o Develop effective programs for waste management within the appropriate city agencies to achieve a coordinated strategy to deal with citywide waste management issues.
- o Work in coordination with other applicable jurisdictions to formulate workable agreements for inter-jurisdictional policies regarding mutual hazardous waste management concerns.
- o Investigate the feasibility of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or other regional agreement for the management of hazardous waste.

Taken as a group, these goals should provide an effective hazardous waste management effort within the City of Hercules, provided the City pursues effective and consistent development and implementation of the programs necessary to achieve these goals. Sections 4.3 and 4.4 summarize the major policies and recommended programs necessary to achieve these goals in a direct and effective manner.