

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hazardous waste generation in Hercules occurs primarily at two facilities which represent the petrochemical and biochemical industries. These industries in addition to 1) other smaller industrial generators, 2) some non-industrial commercial businesses which deal in hazardous materials, and 3) residential households all create proportional amounts of hazardous waste. Safe and effective management of that waste to protect public health and the environment is a major concern of the Hercules City Government.

Due to a growth in commercial development in the City, hazardous waste management has become an important priority of the residents of Hercules. Based on this priority, in March 1990, the City contracted for the preparation of a specific City Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP) to augment the Contra Costa County HWMP. This document will serve as the primary planning document for hazardous waste in the City of Hercules.

Hazardous waste is defined by the State of California in Section 25117 of the Health and Safety Code as:

25117. "Hazardous waste"

(a) "Hazardous waste" means either of the following:

(1) A waste, or combination of wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may either:

(A) Cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness.

(B) Pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

(2) A waste which meets any of the criteria for the identification of a hazardous waste adopted by the Department (DHS) pursuant to Section 25241.

(b) "Hazardous waste" includes, but is not limited to, RCRA hazardous waste.

(c) Unless expressly provided otherwise, the term "hazardous waste" shall be understood to also include extremely hazardous waste and acutely hazardous waste.

The City of Hercules Hazardous Waste Management Plan has been prepared pursuant to AB 2948 (Tanner, 1986) and to Final Guidelines for the Preparation of Hazardous Waste Management Plans (Department of Health Services 1987a,b). It has been prepared to be consistent with the goals, objectives and basic content of the Contra Costa County Final County Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Contra Costa County Community Development Department 1989). This Plan has been constructed to meet the specific needs of the City of Hercules and to conform with the goals and objectives of the citizens and the city government.

This HWMP consists of the following major components:

- o An introduction to the Plan and its purpose (Chapters 1.0 and 2.0)
- o A statement of goals, objectives and policies for the general management of hazardous waste and the potential siting of hazardous waste management facilities (Chapters 3.0 and 4.0)

- o An analysis of hazardous waste generated within the City, including the volumes produced of each waste category, and expected rates of hazardous waste generation to the year 2000 (Chapter 5.0, Sections 5.1,5.2)
- o A description of existing hazardous waste management facilities (Chapter 5.0, Section 5.3)
- o An analysis of the potential for reduction of the volume and hazard of hazardous waste at the source and/or the potential for recycling of such waste (Chapter 5.0, Section 5.6)
- o A discussion of the waste generated by light industrial, commercial zone businesses and residential households, and the need for programs to manage this waste (Chapter 5.0, Sections 5.14 and 5.15)
- o A determination of the need for additional hazardous waste facilities to manage the volume of hazardous waste currently produced or projected to be produced in the year 2000 (Chapter 5.0, Sections 5.4 and 5.5)
- o An identification of existing hazardous waste facilities which can be expanded to accommodate projected needs and siting criteria to be used in siting new facilities (Chapter 5.0, Section 5.7)
- o Definition of programs and a schedule for city actions necessary to implement this plan (Chapter 6.0)

References used in the report are cited in Chapter 7.0. Project staff are acknowledged in Chapter 8.0. Supporting tables, maps and diagrams are included in Chapters 9.0 and 10.0, with detail supporting technical material in Chapter 11.0.

The City of Hercules is located within an area of highly diverse land uses and jurisdictions (Figures 1 and 2). Land uses vary from industrial and office park areas to retail commercial centers, residential communities and open space, but the major land use is now residential. These varied uses are present within the city limits (Figure 3) and in adjacent cities and counties in the eastern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The City of Hercules has legal jurisdiction over hazardous waste produced or hazardous materials handled within the city limits. The City also has a strong interest in hazardous waste and hazardous materials which may affect areas within the city limits through accidents, spills, transport or natural processes (runoff or leaching). Thus this report has focused on the City and an area northeast of the City termed the City's Sphere of Influence (Figure 3). The City has adopted a policy position of annexing properties within the Sphere of Influence, providing development of those properties ensure a continued high standard relative to environmental quality. Part of such assurance will be conformance of properties within the Sphere of Influence with this Plan.

This Plan has been developed in conjunction and with the assistance of Contra Costa County agencies including the County Planning Department, County Health Department and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. In addition, the City of Hercules has worked with cities in nearby Contra Costa County in the development of this plan. Personnel from the State Department of Health Services have also contributed expertise and assistance.