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A CBE News Advisory

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City to vote on safer, less-polluting refinery technology following disastrous Chevron fire

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 2, 2012
(Item I-1; Resolutions, following Consent Calendar)

Where: Richmond City Hall, Council Chambers
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

What: Richmond City Council will vote on a resolution directing city staff to ensure that Chevron uses the highest standards and best technology in rebuilding equipment damaged by the August 6th refinery fire that sent more than 15,000 to area hospitals. If passed, the resolution will mark the first government action to require safer technology at the refinery in the aftermath of that disastrous fire.

The action follows demands by Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) to require the safest and least-emitting technology available when Chevron rebuilds its unsafe and fire-damaged equipment. At stake is the public's ability to guard against design flaws that might lead to another, and possibly even more catastrophic, chemical incident at the refinery. Although Chevron has acknowledged potential flaws in piping materials that might have contributed to its August 6th crude unit fire, after a previous major fire in 2007 it rebuilt the same crude unit even before the causes of that incident were reported publicly.

City officials hold unique local permitting authority for industrial land uses in Richmond to ensure that the fire-damaged refinery equipment is rebuilt using technology that is actually the "best" for community and worker health and a green economy.

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