

For immediate release Monday, June 9, 2014

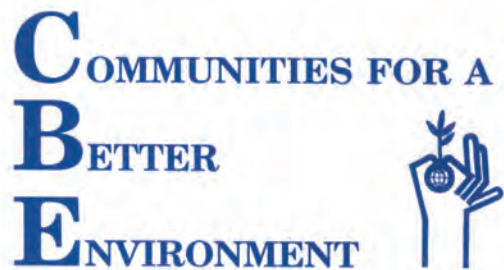
A CBE News Release

Contacts:

Roger Lin (510) 302-0430 x. 16; roger@cbeocal.org

Nile Malloy (510) 926-5737

Greg Karras (415) 902-2666



Attorney General Confirms CBE Concerns over Chevron Refinery Project Review

Urging the City of Richmond “to revise the EIR so that it will fully inform the public and the City Council of the local and statewide impacts of this Project,” Attorney General Kamala Harris cited refinery safety, air pollution, and climate protection concerns with Chevron’s proposed Richmond refinery expansion—the same concerns raised by Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) last month.

The Attorney General’s June 6th comment letter identified at least five issues that need further evaluation in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Chevron Expansion (“Modernization”) Project:

- Safety hazards of the proposed project;
- Potential project impacts on statewide climate protection objectives;
- The project’s cumulative air pollution impacts on the already-disparately impacted local community;
- Feasible measures to cut local air pollution; and
- Reasonable alternatives that may be environmentally superior to the project as currently proposed.

Specific concerns Harris raised include, among others, increased safety hazards from refining higher sulfur oil, increased carbon emission intensity, and the reliance on ‘emission reduction credits’ that do not require emission reductions in the communities directly affected by the proposed project’s potential air pollution.

CBE called on the City to revise and recirculate Chevron’s draft EIR, in comments documenting these same concerns submitted May 2, 2014. Last week CBE challenged air quality officials’ action granting a permit for the project without any valid air quality or environmental review. The Richmond Planning Commission has scheduled a decision on the project and EIR for a public hearing on July 9, 2014.

The Attorney General’s ten-page comment letter is available on CBE’s website (www.cbeocal.org) or from the CBE contact staff listed above.