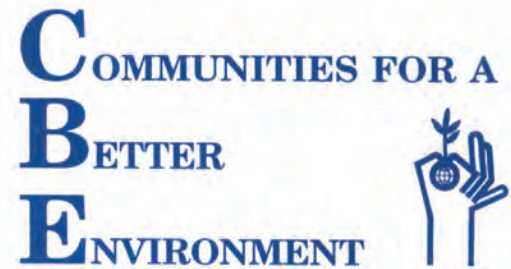


# Community conditions to build cleaner, safer refinery removed from Chevron project permit



Community conditions to protect health, safety, and climate from Chevron's Richmond refinery 'Modernization' project were adopted by Richmond's Planning Commission

on July 10, 2014. But on July 29, 2014, the Richmond City Council removed these conditions from Chevron's project permit. The project would expand capacity to refine high-sulfur heavy gas oil, to make hydrogen for that processing, and to recover the sulfur from that processing. CBE is considering our options for restoring these needed protections for our communities:

## **Inherent Safety Conditions** (COA G-4)

The Planning Commission's permit required Chevron to upgrade old, already-hazardous carbon steel equipment that is vulnerable to corrosion by sulfur in the oil refinery-wide *before* the project's higher sulfur oil feedstock makes this hazard even worse.

The City Council's permit exempted Chevron from this requirement, leaving its Environmental Impact Report's (EIR's) failure to mitigate this hazard unresolved and increasing refinery spill, fire, and explosion hazards for workers and the community.

*Does the project alternative solve this problem?* No. It still allows Chevron to refine higher sulfur oil ( $\approx 2.5$  wt. %). Refining crude oil with  $\approx 1.5$  wt. % sulfur caused the corrosion that led to Chevron's catastrophic pipe failure and fire on August 6, 2012.

## **Clean Air Conditions** (COA D-4)

The Planning Commission's permit required feasible measures to reduce and prevent excess and increasing emissions of fine particulate matter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ), the most harmful air pollutant in the Bay Area, at the biggest  $PM_{2.5}$ -emitting source in Richmond, Chevron's cat cracker.

The City Council's permit removed this requirement, leaving the EIR's failure to mitigate this project impact unresolved, and allowing excess and increasing cat cracker emissions in amounts equal to 37–46% of total  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions from all sources in Richmond *combined*.

*Does the project alternative solve this problem?* No. It allows the cat cracker to increase emissions by refining more heavy gas oil and does not put any limit on  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions.

## **Climate Justice Condition** (COA D-3)

The Planning Commission's permit required Chevron to support a community-based Clean Energy Jobs Program that would mitigate more of the project's climate impacts and create more jobs locally at \$8 million/year through 2050.

The City Council's permit removed this requirement, leaving the EIR's failure to address GHG co-pollution and blight unresolved, and sending nearly all the clean energy work (jobs) to offset project emissions away from Richmond for the project's 30-50 year life.

*Does the project alternative solve this problem?* No. It still allows new on site emissions of  $\approx 550,000$  metric tons/year ( $CO_2e$ ) to be 'offset' elsewhere through buying carbon credits.

8/5/14