Community to Seek Safety Commitments at First Richmond Council Meeting After Refinery Fire

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, 2012
(Item L-1; Chemical Safety Board Update, following Consent Calendar)

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

What: Community leaders will demand commitments from City of Richmond officials to require the safest and least-emitting technology available when Chevron rebuilds the 35 year old crude unit that was destroyed in its August 6th refinery fire, sending more than 15,000 to area hospitals.

A key concern is that design flaws are among suspected causes of the August 6th fire: rebuilding the unit before an ongoing investigation finds such flaws may result in another, and potentially more catastrophic, chemical incident.

The action comes at the first City Council meeting since the fire, where the U.S. Chemical Safety Board will report on progress in their probe into its causes. It follows a September 10th Air Quality Management District assertion to rebuild the crude unit with the best available technology. The City holds unique local permitting authority for industrial uses in Richmond to ensure that this technology is actually the “best” for community and worker health and a green economy.

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