

For immediate release, March 17, 2015

Contacts:

Sandy Saeteurn, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
510-439-8512, Sandy@apen4ej.org

Greg Karras, Communities for a Better Environment
415-902-2666, gkatcbe@gmail.com

Virginia Reinhart, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter
510-848-0800, virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org

*Community Press Conference * Photo Opportunity*

Bay Area residents hold Air District accountable to protecting Public health and reducing climate pollution

RICHMOND, CA – Community, labor, and environmental groups urge the Air District Board stand up to Big Oil lobbyists and prioritize the health and safety of Bay Area families as they finalize new rules regulating oil refinery emissions.

Last year in a victory for clean air and global climate, local communities, refinery workers, and nurses successfully advocated for the unanimous passage of a **resolution by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) board to monitor, cap, and reduce refinery emissions**. The movement for emission regulations comes in the context of an industry-wide switch from dwindling conventional crude stocks to highly toxic, volatile, and carbon-intensive “extreme oils” like Bakken shale oil and Canadian tar sands.

Since the passage of that resolution, however, **pressure from oil industry lobbyists has succeeded in weakening the proposed rules**. In one crucial move, the current draft of the new rules outrageously exempts greenhouse gasses from emissions limitations, effectively giving a green light to an increase in climate-disrupting carbon pollution from local refineries.

Bay Area families urgently need refinery oversight that protects our health and safety. We need real policy solutions that reduce pollution and curb the devastating impacts of climate change.

WHAT: Community press conference with local residents and groups impacted by refinery pollution. This event will take place before one of four public workshops organized by the Air District to discuss the refinery emissions tracking and mitigation rules.

WHO: Community, labor, and environmental justice groups from Bay Area refinery communities speak out to demand **no exemptions for toxic pollutants** that cause climate disruption and health impacts and a **moratorium on all refinery expansion projects until acceptable rules are in place**. Representatives from **Communities for a Better Environment**,

California Nurses Association, the Sierra Club, Idle No More, C.R.U.D.E., the Sunflower Alliance, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, and others will be available for comment.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 5 pm

WHERE: 325 Civic Center Plaza, Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room, Richmond, CA

VISUALS: Colorful signs telling Air District board members to stand up for the interests of Bay Area residents and not let the oil industry undermine strong refinery emission regulations.