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**BREAKING:** Activists Detained Hanging “Stop Oil Trains Now” Banner on Bay Area Bridge

[Richmond, CA] Activists protesting the threat of oil trains were detained this morning as they attempted to hang a 60-foot banner in front of the Benicia-Martinez railroad bridge. The banner reads “Stop Oil Trains Now: Are You in the Blast-Zone.org.” The railroad bridge, which runs between the RT680 bridges, crosses the Carquinez Strait near refineries operated by Valera, Tesoro, Shell and Chevron. The Benicia-Martinez bridge is identified by the rail industry and on the [blast-zone.org](http://blast-zone.org) map as the route for oil trains moving through the Bay Area.

This action coincides with the second anniversary of the fatal oil train fire in Lac Megantic, Quebec, and the Stop Oil Trains [week of action](#) with more than 80 planned events opposing oil trains across the US and Canada. Climbers, who are risking arrest to drop the banner, are representing three groups: Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Communities for a Better Environment, and ForestEthics. Baykeeper also provided support for the action.

The groups cite the threat of fatal accidents, increased air pollution near railways and refineries, and carbon pollution from the high-carbon crude oil carried by oil trains. Oil trains have derailed and exploded five times in 2015, including high-profile events in West Virginia, Illinois, North Dakota and Canada.

“Richmond has been my home my entire life. My family, friends, and neighbors are here, and we refuse to live in fear of these bomb trains blowing up our neighborhoods, and we're tired of living in the shadow of the Chevron Refinery and the oil industry,” said Laiseng Saechao, APEN Member and Summer of Our Power Fellow. “That's why I'm speaking up, not just to revoke Kinder Morgan's permit to bring oil trains into Richmond, but also to build community-led alternatives to dirty oil through the Summer of Our Power Campaign.”

“We are facing a triple threat. Oil trains dangerously roll through to burn filthy crude in refineries from Richmond to LA and Wilmington, all contributing to toxic pollution and global climate catastrophe,” says Jasmin Vargas, CBE, associate director. “Communities for a Better Environment is working in communities challenging the worst cases of environmental racism in CA.”

“I am risking arrest today because crude oil trains are too dangerous for the rails,” says Ethan Buckner, ForestEthics, California campaigner. “We don't need this dirty crude oil and we can't wait for the next oil train catastrophe to act. Our railways will play a huge part in our new, just clean energy economy, but oil trains have no part in that future.”

On June 30, ForestEthics and CBE released the report: [\*\*\*Crude Injustice on the Rails: Race and the Disparate Risk from Oil Trains in California\*\*\*](#). The report maps the threat to oil trains to environmental justice communities in California, including Oakland and Richmond.

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APEN advances environmental justice campaigns and policy with the leadership of low-income Asian Pacific American families in Richmond, Oakland, and across California. [www.apen4ej.org](http://www.apen4ej.org)

CBE works to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments. [www.cbecal.org](http://www.cbecal.org)

ForestEthics demands environmental responsibility from government and the biggest companies in the world. Visit [Blast-Zone.org](http://Blast-Zone.org) to see if you are one of the 25 million Americans who live in the dangerous one-mile oil train evacuation zone. [www.ForestEthics.org](http://www.ForestEthics.org)