



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sandy Saeteurn, APEN, 510-439-8512

Andrés Soto, CBE, 510-282-5363

Mike Parker, RPA, 510-621-3225

Chevron's Dirty Oil Expansion Project Fails to Advance Clean Energy Solutions While Increasing More Toxic Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

RICHMOND, CA – Today, local and regional community and labor groups highlight questions, solutions and concerns regarding the current Chevron Richmond Refinery Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). In a community already suffering from high rates of pollution, asthma, and cancer, the Chevron Richmond Refinery is proposing a project that increases greenhouse gases and toxic pollutants, generates more hydrogen than is needed for refinery operations and allows for refining of a higher sulfur climate intensive crude oil. In addition, 61 of 89 toxic chemicals and metals are going to increase in this project, with significant increases for 16 toxic air contaminants that are associated with chronic health impacts.

Richmond community members believe that we can have power without pollution and be leaders in a community-based solar program – repowering our community for cleaner energy and more jobs. At a time when the majority of Californians support action to reduce pollution and address the threat of climate change by powering our economy with clean, renewable energy, Chevron's project takes us in the wrong direction, with increases of deadly toxins and nearly a million metric tons of annual carbon dioxide, the equivalent of more than 190,000 additional cars on the road each year.

“The air pollution from the Chevron refinery is dirty and dangerous. Poison from the refinery releases to our community, impacting the health of our community members, including my own family members,” says Lipo Chanthanasak, a Richmond member of Asian Pacific Environmental Network and a White House Champion of Change for Community Resilience. “We need better solutions – renewable energy at the refinery to reduce greenhouse gases and renewable energy owned and operated by our local residents to produce local clean jobs and community power.”

"Nurses and residents know Chevron's proposed expansion will have serious health impacts on thousands of area residents, including the communities that California Nurses Association RN's serve. I have a son who has asthma so I know what it's like to watch a child struggle to breathe and worry that the toxins in the environment are causing that struggle. I am also a maternity nurse, and the chemicals that are released into the environment from the refineries are a pregnant woman's nightmare," says Katy Roemer, RN, Kaiser Oakland, board member of the California Nurses Association. "Richmond residents already suffer from female reproductive cancers at double the county rate. The expansion plan is a plan for disaster, especially when Doctors Medical Center, one of the hospitals currently treating patients suffering the health impacts of the refinery emissions, is facing threatened closure."

"Chevron's "modernization" project promises progress but delivers significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions and toxic pollutants," says Shoshana Wexler of the Sunflower Alliance. "There's a hidden agenda at work here, the increased processing of high-sulfur crude, with terrible impacts for Richmond and the rest of the planet."

"State and federal pollution trading policies have the potential to allow Chevron to avoid cleaning up here in Richmond by promising to clean up somewhere else," says Andrés Soto, Communities for a Better Environment. "They threaten to make our communities dumping grounds for even more pollution and blight while a vast majority of clean, green jobs bypass Richmond. We need to reduce all local emissions and ensure the protection of community and workers' health and safety."

"At Chevron Watch, a campaign of 350 Bay Area, we know that we need to leave dirtier fossil fuels in the ground and stop extreme extraction to avoid climate catastrophe and further pollution of our air, land, food, and water," says Reverend Earl W. Koteen, of 350 Bay Area. "Chevron's project will accelerate the poisoning of our communities and the planet. We must say no to this horror."

By working together, we can find local solutions to cutting emissions at the refinery that protect workers and community health and safety while investing in local clean energy projects. We need more local, clean and healthy solutions to build a healthier Richmond.