

**Chevron Richmond Community Action Plan  
A Collaborative Approach for Enhancing Community Engagement  
Town Hall Meeting**



**Date:** May 13, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:** CoBiz Richmond (1503 McDonald Ave, Richmond, CA)



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**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome & Grounding & CAP Overview:** 6:00 PM – 6:40 PM
  2. **Chevron's Presentation:** 6:45 PM – 7:20 PM
  3. **Public Comments:** 7:45 PM – 8:15 PM
  4. **Chevron's Response to Public comment:** 8:20 PM – 8:40 PM
  5. **Closing Remarks:** 8:40 PM – 8:50 PM
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**1. Welcome, Grounding & Community Action Plan Overview**

**Presenter: Dr. Kerby Lynch, PhD – Ceres Policy Research**

Dr. Kerby Lynch opened the meeting with a welcome and grounding session that emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and community-led engagement. She reminded attendees that the meeting was part of the ongoing Rule 6-5 Settlement process and introduced the Community Action Plan (CAP) as a living document co-created with Richmond residents. Her remarks framed the evening's dialogue around environmental justice, collaborative problem-solving, and engagement of fence line communities.

Dr. Lynch introduced the CAP Committee members and thanked them for their leadership in shaping the process. She highlighted that the CAP was designed by and for Richmond residents and encouraged attendees to engage actively through facilitated discussion and post-it-note feedback. She emphasized that the goal is not simply consultation, but community co-governance.

**Focus Areas for 2025:**

- Sharing clearer, real-time info about air quality and flaring.
- Understanding how to support community health initiatives.
- Showing up more at community-based and neighborhood council meetings.
- Making technical information easier to understand and access.
- Building long-term infrastructure for sustained dialogue and collaboration.

The full Community Action Plan is available at: <https://richmond.chevron.com/-/media/richmond/community/documents/community-action-plan.pdf>

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## 2. Chevron's Presentation

### Chevron Representatives Presenting:

- **Brian Hubinger, Corporate Affairs Manager** – Brian highlighted Chevron's continued commitment to transparency and collaboration with the Richmond community. He described the town hall meetings as a vital space for two-way dialogue, shaped by the Rule 6-5 agreement, and acknowledged that these conversations should not be treated as isolated events but rather as part of a continuous accountability process.

Brian reiterated that the \$20 million Chevron committed to the Air District for community air quality improvement projects is managed by the Air District's Community Investments office. Chevron does not have control over where the money goes.

Brian expressed appreciation for community engagement and reiterated Chevron's intention to listen, grow, and remain present in the process of improving community engagement.

- **Israel Leon, Operations Training Specialist** – Israel offered a technical explanation of flaring operations, comparing the refinery's flare system to a household circuit breaker. He explained that flaring is a safety mechanism used only when necessary, typically during emergency events or unit shutdowns, when excess gases cannot be recovered or routed through normal systems. These gases are then safely combusted in flare stacks to prevent overpressure and protect workers and nearby residents. Israel emphasized that California refineries, including Richmond's, are among the cleanest in the world and that Chevron actively works to minimize the use of flaring through recovery systems.
- **Hakim Johnson, Public Affairs Representative** – Hakim provided an in-depth analysis of particulate matter (PM 2.5) emissions in the Richmond area. He shared findings from the AB-617 Path to Clean Air Community Emission Reduction Plan that showed over 85% of PM 2.5 exposure in Richmond comes from non-local sources such as wildfires and pollution from other cities. About 15% of Richmond's PM2.5 exposure is from local sources such as commercial business, the port, the refinery, railroad, road dust and local traffic.

Hakim demonstrated how to access real-time data on [RichmondAirMonitoring.org](https://richmondairmonitoring.org), a public platform funded by Chevron and maintained by a third party. He guided residents through reading the air monitoring dashboard, showing how to check chemical levels, wind direction, and pollution trends on days with and without flaring. He emphasized the value of community members using these tools.

- **Amanda Hernandez, Refinery Operations Engineer** – Amanda shared Chevron's progress in reducing flaring. She reported that the refinery achieved a 46% reduction in flare volume and an 86% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions in 2024. She highlighted the implementation of new technology called flare.IQ, which helps monitor and optimize

flaring activity in real time. Amanda explained that a string of mechanical failures in February 2025 caused a spike in flare events. She detailed the cross-functional initiatives and investments of over \$25million to reduce flaring.

- **Katie Rodriguez, Environmental Compliance Analyst** – Katie reviewed the 87 Notices of Violation (NOVs) Chevron received between October 2024 and March 2025. She clarified that many of these violations stemmed from events in previous years and were only recently processed by the Bay Area Air District. Of the 87 violations, 41% were related to emissions while the remaining 59% were attributed to non-emissions issues, such as temperature exceedances or missed monitoring data during equipment maintenance. Katie explained that Chevron has since installed new analyzers and upgraded systems to reduce NOVs. She also shared that Chevron is in the process of working with regulators to clarify startup/shutdown exemption policies that currently contribute to regulatory infractions.
- **Caitlin Powell, External Communications Advisor** – Caitlin introduced changes to the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS), explaining the four-tier alert system: Level 0 (no expected off-site impact), Level 1 (potential for visible or odor-related effects), and Levels 2–3 (requiring health advisories). She noted that all of Chevron's flaring events in the past 12 years fall into Level 0 or Level 1. Caitlin urged residents to sign up for mobile alerts by texting "CCHealth" to 21423 or visiting [CWSAlerts.com](https://CWSAlerts.com). She also promoted [richmond.chevron.com](https://richmond.chevron.com), where residents can find newsletters, bilingual resources, and updates on flaring events. Caitlin is leading efforts to expand communication through platforms like Nextdoor and improve multilingual accessibility. She encouraged residents to give her feedback on the site's usability and the kinds of information they would like to see more clearly displayed.

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### 3. Public Comments

During the public comment period, Richmond residents and community leaders shared their perspectives on Chevron's operations, communication practices, and the broader social and environmental impacts of refinery activities.

#### Public Comments

1. **Comment (Richmond Annex Resident)** – Commenter linked Chevron's investments in Israeli natural gas fields to the violence in Gaza and the occupation of Palestine. They called attention to the ethical implications of Chevron's international footprint, asserting that the company's billions in profits are made at the expense of both Palestinians abroad and the health of Richmond residents locally. They tied Chevron's local pollution and past disasters—such as the 2012 Richmond refinery fire—to a global pattern of harm, calling for Chevron to end what they described as its "evil alliance with the Zionist government of Israel".

2. **Comment (Lifelong Richmond Resident)** – Commenter raised concerns about the mental and emotional toll of seeing plumes of fire and smoke from refinery flaring. They questioned why Chevron’s presentation did not include more information about the specific gases released, their health effects, or the direction and duration of emissions. They also asked whether Chevron would consider partnering with local youth sports programs to address health impacts for children who regularly practice and play outdoors near the refinery.
  3. **Comment (Point Richmond Resident)** – Commenter spoke about odor and health complaints in his neighborhood, particularly sore throats and eye irritation that occur in fall and winter. They challenged the assumption that Chevron is always responsible, pointing to Republic Services’ green composting site as a possible source of emissions. They explained that during rainy seasons, compost piles with excessive plastic content can heat up and emit particulate matter. They stressed the importance of distinguishing between sources of pollution and called for a broader regulatory focus.
  4. **Comment (Point Richmond Resident)** – Commenter highlighted the issue of noise pollution as an often-overlooked impact. Despite living in a double-paned window home, they regularly hear a low, jet-like hum that they believe originates from the refinery. They advocated for Chevron to treat noise as a legitimate form of environmental harm that affects residents’ well-being.
  5. **Comment (Richmond Resident, 65+ years)** – Commenter expressed gratitude for the meeting and urged Chevron to continue its efforts to improve operations. They asked about how air quality is monitored in real time during flaring or other incidents and emphasized the importance of protecting children and families.
  6. **Comment (Point Richmond Neighborhood)** – Commenter offered a perspective grounded in both personal experience and technical knowledge. As the spouse of a retired refinery safety supervisor, they explained that many older residents in Point Richmond are familiar with flaring and know how to identify its severity. They encouraged accuracy in attributing odors or health concerns and reminded the group that local sources like the sewage treatment plant and compost facilities also contribute to pollution. Commenter emphasized the need to hold all responsible parties accountable—not just Chevron—and praised Dr. Lynch for facilitating a rigorous and respectful space for discussion.
  7. **Comment (Richmond Resident)** – Commenter emphasized the lack of clarity around current asthma rates in children and whether improvements in Chevron’s operations have corresponded with better health outcomes. They questioned why flaring receives such intense focus if, as claimed, it contributes a small amount of PM 2.5 emissions.
  8. **Comment (Richmond Resident)** – Commenter asked about Chevron’s connection to the Richmond Standard, noting that it is a source of communications they utilize, though it is not updated as often as they would prefer.
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## **4. Chevron's Response**

### **Overview:**

Following the public comment period, Chevron representatives provided responses and clarifications on issues raised by community members. Their response focused on acknowledging concerns, clarifying technical processes, outlining corrective actions, and committing to improved communication and transparency.

### **Key Response Themes from Chevron Representatives:**

#### **Global Investments and Local Accountability**

Chevron acknowledged the emotional weight of the comments regarding its international operations, particularly concerns about investments abroad, and respects the rights of individuals to express their viewpoints. While Chevron is a global company with international partnerships, it reaffirmed its commitment to local accountability and transparency in Richmond. Chevron representatives emphasized that the Community Action Plan (CAP) process is designed to facilitate constructive feedback and community oversight here in Richmond.

#### **Health Impacts and Data Transparency**

Chevron responded to concerns about asthma and respiratory health impacts, particularly those affecting youth and frontline communities. The company highlighted its support for community air monitoring platforms, such as [richmondairmonitoring.org](https://richmondairmonitoring.org), which provide real-time emissions data. Chevron also expressed openness to working with local health agencies to explore expanded public health data partnerships. Additionally, Chevron noted measurable progress in reducing emissions from its facility.

#### **Community Warning System and Emergency Preparedness**

Chevron addressed questions about the Community Warning System (CWS) and clarified the tiered alert structure. Flaring events in the past 12 years were classified as Level 0 or Level 1, which do not trigger audible sirens but Level 1 does result in digital notifications via text and online platforms. Chevron stated that it is working to improve notification practices through expanded multilingual outreach and increased use of platforms such as Facebook and Nextdoor. Residents were encouraged to sign up for alerts by texting "CCHHealth" to 21423 and by visiting [cwsalerts.com](https://cwsalerts.com).

#### **Noise and Non-Flare Impacts**

In response to concerns about low-frequency noise, Chevron stated that the community can report noise and odor complaints via their hotline at 510-242-2127. The company tracks community noise complaints and investigates potential sources. It is best if the community calls right away because noise and odor is hard to investigate after the fact.

#### **Pollution Attribution and Multi-Source Emissions**

Chevron acknowledged comments that emphasized the need to distinguish between various pollution sources in Richmond. While the company plays a role in regional emissions, representatives noted that other local facilities—such as composting operations, the wastewater

treatment plant, and port-related activities—also contribute to air quality concerns. Chevron supports multi-agency data collaboration and complies with monitoring and reporting requirements from the Bay Area Air District (BAAD).

### **Requests for Ongoing Dialogue and a Community Advisory Panel**

Chevron reaffirmed its support for ongoing engagement through the CAP Steering Committee and biannual town halls. The company welcomed the suggestion to revisit a formal Community Advisory Panel model and expressed openness to community input on how such a body could be structured. Chevron emphasized that it does not view these meetings as a formality but as part of a long-term, evolving partnership with Richmond residents.

### **Commitments Moving Forward:**

- Review and evaluate flare communication strategies
  - Coordinate with public health partners to explore support for public health initiatives and public health education at a future community meeting.
  - Continue multilingual and multi-platform communication outreach
  - Report back at the October 2025 meeting on how feedback has shaped CAP updates and operational practices
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## **5. Closing Remarks**

### **Facilitator: Dr. Kerby Lynch, PhD – Ceres Policy Research**

Dr. Kerby Lynch concluded the meeting by thanking all attendees for their participation and thoughtful engagement. She reaffirmed that the Community Action Plan (CAP) is a living, resident-led document and emphasized that the feedback provided during this session—both spoken and submitted anonymously—would be reviewed by the CAP Steering Committee. Attendees were encouraged to stay involved, continue asking questions, and hold all stakeholders accountable, including Chevron, public agencies, and community leaders. Dr. Lynch reminded residents that the next town hall will take place in October 2025 and that ongoing updates and responses would be posted on [richmond.chevron.com](https://richmond.chevron.com). She closed by inviting participants to reflect on the power of community-led advocacy and thanked everyone for contributing to a space rooted in justice, care, and collective action.