

Chevron Richmond Community Action Plan Town Hall Meeting

Date: October 22, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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



Agenda

1. **Welcome & Chevron & CAP Overview** – 6:15 PM–6:35 PM
 2. **Chevron’s Presentation** – 6:35 PM–7:00 PM
 3. **Contra Costa Health’s Presentation** – 7:00 PM–7:15 PM
 4. **CAER Presentation** – 7:15 PM–7:30 PM
 5. **Public Comments** – 8:00 PM–8:15 PM
 6. **Chevron’s Response to Public Comment** – 8:15 PM–8:40 PM
 7. **Closing Remarks** – 8:40 PM
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1. Welcome & Grounding & Community Action Plan Overview

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

Dr. Kerby Lynch opened the meeting by reaffirming the purpose of the Community Action Plan (CAP) as a tool for transparency, accountability, and collaboration between Chevron Richmond, regulatory agencies, and local residents. She emphasized the CAP is a resident-informed initiative shaped through the Rule 6-5 Settlement Agreement. The 2025 focus areas included improving real-time communication during flaring events, increasing public access to air quality data, and strengthening community trust through inclusive dialogue.

Dr. Lynch thanked CAP Steering Committee (SC) members and encouraged attendees to participate using both verbal comments and written post-it submissions. She reiterated this process reflects co-governance rather than consultation, ensuring Richmond residents drive the agenda for ongoing environmental and public health accountability.

Tolly Graves, Chevron Richmond Refinery Director –Gave brief opening remarks thanking attendees, acknowledging CAP members, and emphasizing “shared accountability” and “continued dialogue.”

Kim Jones, CAP SC Member – Reflected on his experience joining the CAP SC and touring the refinery. He shared that witnessing operations firsthand built understanding and trust, and encouraged continued community participation in shaping CAP priorities.

2. Chevron’s Presentation

Chevron Representatives Presenting:

Lily Rahnema, Community Engagement Manager – Opened Chevron’s presentation by thanking attendees and emphasizing the value of hearing feedback from the community through the CAP process. She highlighted Chevron’s community health investments that emerged from CAP discussions, including partnerships with MCE Clean Energy and Lifelong Medical’s Asthma Health Promoters Program. Chevron also provided funding for Community Warning System magnets to be mailed to all Richmond residents. In terms of communication, she described bilingual materials, Spanish-language flaring flyers, and improvements to Chevron’s public website to make data more accessible and transparent.

Danny Barbour, Manager, Env. Regulatory & Compliance – Discussed Chevron’s flare improvement efforts, presenting slides on recent system upgrades and operator training. He described ongoing work to minimize flaring through infrastructure investments and the integration of flare.IQ technology for real-time monitoring.

Luke Honnen, Environmental Air Specialist – Presented the “Flaring Events” slide, reporting seven flare events between April and September 2025—reflecting continued decline compared to 2024. He explained Chevron’s enhanced data tracking and operational coordination to prevent recurrence.

Shauna Falvey, Environmental Execution Team Lead – Reviewed Chevron’s compliance updates, noting 111 Notices of Violation (NOVs)—29 historical and 82 current—and explained that most were self-reported. She emphasized Chevron’s proactive approach to corrective actions and collaboration with regulators to clarify startup/shutdown exemption policies.

3. Contra Costa Health’s Presentation

Nicole Heath, Director of Hazardous Materials Program – Discussed the department’s mission and the importance of getting out into the community to explain regulatory roles. Discussed Community Warning System changes and how notification levels are determined by the County and sent to the community. Highlighted collaboration between hazardous materials, environmental health, and housing divisions to protect public health, including coordination on incidents and outreach to unhoused populations.

Dr. Lisa Rodelo of Health Officer – Presented on air quality and health impacts, including asthma and respiratory illness trends. Encouraged residents to sign up for alerts and offered guidance on responding to CWS notifications and shelter-in-place procedures.

4. CAER’s Presentation

Tony Semenza, Executive Director, Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) – Reviewed CAER’s role in operating the Community Warning System (CWS), including coordination with Chevron, Contra Costa Health, and local agencies. He explained the siren network, bilingual outreach materials, and CWS magnet mailers sent to all Richmond residents. Semenza emphasized the importance of preparedness drills at schools and ongoing collaboration with refinery partners.

5. 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. **A Richmond resident** asked what it would take for Chevron to become the cleanest refinery in the world.
 2. **Antwon Cloird** commended Chevron’s historical presence in Richmond but urged balanced accountability.
 3. **Damien King** expressed appreciation for the town hall for helping bridge the information gap for residents.
 4. **Bill**, a Point Richmond resident, raised concerns about odors and potential emissions from Republic Services’ composting operations.
 5. **Tonya Jacobs**, representing Community Villages, emphasized outreach to unhoused residents.
 6. **Mark Wassberg**, urged clearer public explanations about flaring.
 7. **Kathleen Sullivan**, CAP Steering Committee member, requested improvements to transparency and public education.
 8. **Brian Hancock** requested access to Chevron’s presentation slides for further review.
 9. **Kayla Gordon**, Richmond resident, expressed appreciation for the meetings and their informative nature.
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6. Agency and Chevron Responses

Overview:

Chevron’s response was led by Brian Hubinger, Manager of Corporate Affairs, with contributions from Tolly Graves (Refinery Director) Anna Morgan (Chevron Air Program Manager), Ed Giacometti (Bay Area Air District), and Nicole Heath (Contra Costa Health). Together, they addressed community questions regarding emissions, flaring, communication, and inter-agency coordination.

Emission Reductions and Environmental Improvements at the Refinery:

Brian Hubinger reaffirmed Chevron's commitment to lowering emissions from the facility. Since 2014, the refinery has reduced PM2.5 emissions by nearly 40%, thanks to a \$1 billion investment called the Modernization Project. That project also included a commitment to maintain lower emissions than when the project started. Additionally, Chevron invests hundreds of millions of dollars every year on maintenance and improvement initiatives. From switching to LED lights to electrifying diesel machinery to investing in one of the cleanest locomotives on the market, Chevron tackles projects big and small to reduce emissions. The Bay Area has some of the most stringent environmental regulations in the country and one could argue this refinery is among the cleanest in the world.

Economic Impact:

Brian Hubinger cited Chevron's estimated \$1 billion annual economic impact in West Contra Costa County through taxes, local spending, and community investment.

Communication Improvements:

Brian Hubinger acknowledged the need to simplify technical discussions and committed to clearer outreach through FAQs, infographics, and multilingual website enhancements. He encouraged residents to subscribe for updates at richmond.chevron.com/newsroom/subscribe.

Odor and Compost Concerns:

Nicole Heath, Contra Costa Health, confirmed multiple sources contribute to air-quality complaints. Staff explained the hazardous-materials and environmental-health divisions coordinate with the Air District to monitor hydrogen sulfide and other pollutants at nearby facilities, including Republic Services.

Complaint Process:

Ed Giacometti, Bay Area Air District Manager, explained how odor and emission complaints are tracked to specific sources rather than assumed to originate from the refinery. He confirmed recent citations at Republic Services and weekly inspections in the area. Residents were encouraged to file complaints and request follow-up reports.

Homeless Outreach:

Chevron described continued collaboration through partnerships and relocation efforts near the refinery, including coordination with Contra Costa County Health and local shelters.

Flaring:

Tolly Graves reiterated flaring is a safety mechanism. Sometimes it must be used but reducing its use and duration is a top operational priority. Chevron is investing in equipment upgrades and process optimization to further reduce flaring. Hubinger added that the refinery continues to publish flare data and causal reports on richmond.chevron.com.

Website Transparency:

Anna Morgan outlined upgrades to richmondairmonitoring.org —simplified layout, new data definitions, downloadable reports, and an expanded FAQ. Additional improvements are expected by December 2025, with a public feedback session planned.

7. Closing Remarks

Dr. Lynch thanked attendees, encouraged feedback, and noted the next CAP meeting will occur in early 2026.