Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting
Valero East – 610 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA
Tuesday, December 9thth, 2025 - 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was conducted in person at Valero East. Dennis Lowry called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. The December 9th Agenda was approved & the October 14th CAP Meeting minutes were approved as written. The following participants attended the meeting:

CAP Members	
Dennis Lowry	CAP Chairman & Community at Large Member
Terry Scott	City of Benicia, Councilmember
Marilyn Bardet	Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Cara Bateman	Community at Large Member
Kristine Passalacqua	Community at Large Member
Valero CAP Representatives	
Lauren Bird	VP and General Manager
Paul Adler	Community Relations & Government Affairs Director
Melissa Manke Fimbres	HSE Director
Valero employees	
Taryn Goodwin	Technical Director
Frank Hartig	Superintendent Emergency Services
Pam Fischer	Executive Administrative Assistant
Additional Attendees	
Bob Nickeson	Community Member

Refinery Update

- Lauren Bird, Vice President & General Manager
  - We are still on track to cease operations by April 2026. He is unsure what the state is going to do. He did recently attend an Industrial Association Meeting with Siva Gunda, California Energy Commission, as the guest speaker.
- Melissa Manke Fimbres, HSE Director
  - The refinery was recently awarded the AFPM Safety Achievement Award for 2024.
  - Melissa shared a presentation on the Benicia Refinery Regulatory Agencies and Jurisdiction and provided information on the frequency and some topside information regarding the reporting. It was asked that those details and time lines be added to the presentation. The current presentation on the CAP website is the final version and includes the requested data.

    Discussion included Nustar and Sunoco's ownership/responsibility for the tanks.

    Remediation is managed by the Water Board and we would not expect that the reporting would continue if the refinery is empty; though the permit will clarify requirements. There was concern expressed with the empty pipelines and Lauren shared that we work with this all of the time and are aware of rules and expectations. Benicia will not have the remediation issues of other refineries because the site has been well maintained.

- Paul Adler, Community Relations & Government Affairs Director
    - Paul shared that several employees represented the Valero Volunteer Committee supporting Benicia Community Action Council by helping to serve Thanksgiving meals.
    - We have just sent the 4th quarter donation of $2,500 to St. Vincent de Paul to support their program providing food and other needs to Benicia citizens in need.
    - Valero continues to support the community and corporate has asked what needs are there locally for food. We are planning a close-out volunteer event at the Food Bank and the United Way payroll deductions continue. For December, there is an "Adopt a Family" event taking place throughout the refinery.
    - Tuesday, February 17, 2026 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

CAP Member Updates

- Terry Scott – The city has been holding meetings with BAD to attempt to get funding from what has been paid into BAD in the past. They are working on adjusting the guidelines as to what this money can be used for. The city is also working on ISO fees and fines.
- Cara Bateman – no comment
- Kristine Passalacqua – no comment
- Marilyn Bardet – She is concerned with what will be taking place with the refinery once it closes especially in regard to the pipelines.
- Dennis Lowry- Closed the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

2026 CAP Calendar

- Tuesday, February 17th – 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm @ Valero East