



Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting
Valero East – 610 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA - Drive to the back of the building
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 - 4:30 PM – 5:40 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 [August 20th Agenda](#) was approved & the [June 10th CAP Meeting minutes](#) were approved as written. The following participants attended the meeting:

CAP Members

Dennis Lowry	CAP Chairman & Community at Large Member
Patrick Cawley	Benicia Chamber of Commerce
Terry Scott	City of Benicia - Councilmember
Rod Sherry	Benicia Industrial Park Association
Constance Beutel (*in lieu of Marilyn Bardet)	Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Cara Bateman	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

City and County Representatives

Colby LaPlace	Solano County, Sr. Hazardous Material Specialist
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Valero employees

Cameron Wicklow	Technical Director
Pam Fischer	Executive Administrative Assistant

Refinery Update

- Lauren Bird, Vice President & General Manager
 - On July 16, 2025, the refinery held a Tabletop oil drill that is an annual requirement. The drill was attended by 50+ people which included Valero employees, Benicia Fire Dept, the United States Coast Guard, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), the Office of Emergency Service (OES), Solano County Hazardous Materials Division which is the CUPA and others.
 - The refinery held a Retirement and Career Exposition for our employees during the first week of August. Representatives from San Antonio and employees from other refineries attended to provide information to our employees about options and insight related to retirement benefits and relocation opportunities.
- Paul Adler, Community Relations & Government Affairs Director
 - Paul presented the [Guiding Principles Report](#) published in August 2025. This replaces the ESG Report that was published in the past. He will bring hard copies of the report to the next meeting. Lauren shared that this gives a good overview as to what Valero is all about.
 - Paul has been monitoring the California Assembly's joint session dealing with California's Transportation Fuels Transition hearing. .

- Melissa Manke Fimbres, HSE Director
 - Melissa presented the [HSE update](#) for the third quarter. The presentation included an update on incidents follow-ups that have taken place this quarter including completion and submission of the 20-24 BIHSO annual report and incident Root Cause Analysis that was all sent to the City. The Fire Department has not uploaded these documents onto their Public Information Bank website. An overview of the July Oil Spill Drill, the Petrochemical Mutual Aid Organization (PMAO) and discussion about the origination and effectiveness of the ICS- Incident Command System also occurred.

CAP Member Updates

- Patrick Cawley – There is concern as to what Benicia is going to do when Valero closes and leaves a large area of open real estate-what are the next steps and the plan for the community.
- Terry Scott – The Oil Spill Fire Drill was fascinating to watch and he felt there was a quietness and intensity/calmness because everyone did their job. Terry participated in previous ICS's and he felt this drill was managed very well. Terry has also been monitoring the California Legislative session taking place today and he believes that the legislature will offer recommendations by September 12th. Mayor Young's task force met last night and they are continuing to work on the city's plans for the impact of the refinery closing. He talked with contractors to get more insight into their plans.
 - Constance Beutel – She is sitting in for Marilyn Bardet who is at the Legislative session in Sacramento. The GNSC and BCAMP committees continue to review air monitoring reports of refineries and they are also focusing on the Montezuma carbon capture sequestration pipeline project.
- Rod Sherry – BIPA had a revitalization in the last 4 to 5 months with several companies who are hosting lunch meetings and attendance is 30–40 attendees. There is concern that the Valero property could become residential real estate which could impact the industrial zone of the Benicia Industrial Park. Rod wanted to remind the CAP that in the long term, you lose money with residential housing coming into industrial areas. They would like to know what the property transition is going to look like.
- Cara Bateman – She has been working on educating and alleviating fears about the refinery closure through different outlets. She is sharing that not all hope is lost and that people don't understand the responsibility that Valero has during this transition, such as the city is not responsible for the remediation. Since Cara's work at PG&E consisted of remediation projects, she is answering a lot of questions and trying to calm people down.
- Dennis Lowry- He referenced that it is important that Benicia captures the incoming workforce that takes place as a result of the transition. The CAP committee should continue to talk to groups and keep them informed. It should be shared that Valero is continuing to maintain safe operations. There is a lot going on in the legislature that will have impact.

The meeting ended at 5:40 pm.

2025 CAP Calendar

- Tuesday, October 14th - 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm @ Valero East
- Tuesday, December 9th - 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm @ Valero East

Future Meeting Topics:

- Fenceline Monitoring H2S Update