



**Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting - Valero East – 610 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dennis Lowry called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. The following participants attended:

CAP Members

Dennis Lowry	CAP Chairman & Community at Large Member
Kari Birdseye	City of Benicia Council Member
Dr. Gethsemane Moss	Benicia Unified School District
Rod Sherry	Benicia Industrial Park Association
Marilyn Bardet	Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Terry Crosby	Community at Large Member
Cara Bateman	Community at Large Member

Valero CAP Representatives & Employees

Josh Tulino	VP and General Manager
Paul Adler	Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs
Taryn Wier	Environmental Manager
Frank Hartig	Valero, Manager Plant Security
Melissa Manke Fimbres	Valero, Director Technical Services
Mike Sierras	Valero, Director Central Maintenance
Pam Fischer	Valero, Executive Administrative Assistant

City Employees

Chief Josh Chadwick	Benicia Fire Department
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Welcome

- Tonight's [Agenda](#) was approved.
- The 8/8/23 meeting [Minutes](#) were approved with unanimous approval.

Refinery Update

- Josh Tulino, VP & General Manager
The refinery held our annual United Way Employee Giving Campaign which ended on October 2nd. The campaign was very successful with 80% of our employees donating to the United Way. In addition, our annual Sporting Clays fundraiser made a record-breaking \$150,000 that will be distributed to two agencies - Benicia Community Action Council and Rebuilding Together Solano County. Operationally, things are going well at the refinery.
- Taryn Weir, Interim HSE Director
The refinery has been working to meet BAAQMD's H2S open-path minimum detection level (MDL) specifications that the Air District set this past year. We have focused on how our pathway operates in the upcoming wet/winter season. We will continue to work with BAAQMD on our Air Monitoring Plan (AMP) and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAAP). Chairman Lowry noted that at this time no provisional approvals have been approved for any of the 5 Bay Area refineries. Josh Tulino added that we have a commitment to adhere to the Good Neighbor Steering Committee Amendment which adds a 4th open pathway air monitoring station to the refinery. The refinery has approval to start the

engineering plans for Pathway 4, which would be located west of Rose Drive in the north-western buffer zone area & once Pathways 1-3 have been approved by BAAQMD, installation should progress.

- Paul Adler, Community Relations & GA Director
Introduced Mike Sierras who is the refinery's Director of Central Maintenance.
Paul shared referenced content of the [CAP website](#) and the information/presentations that CAP members have received at previous meetings. In the [Resources section](#) of the website, presentations are available including Valero's [ESG \(Environmental, Social Governance\) Report](#). A hard copy of the Report was provided for each CAP member. In addition, the refinery publishes a Community Relations [Eblast](#) that highlights community investments, donations and volunteer events.

CAP Member Updates

- Dennis Lowry – He attended last City Council Meeting and briefly addressed the 2-step process. During his public comments, Dennis introduced who the CAP is and provided an update on what the CAP has been doing.
- Dr. Moss - Superintendent Damon Wright is going on a “Budget Roadshow” to prepare the community for potential cutbacks. Additional funding that occurred during Covid is no longer available.
- Rod Sherry– BIPA is working on community awareness for the Industrial Park. They are putting up banners and working on program to keep it clean. Also, working on a Speaker series to provide information and address issues in the Industrial Park.
- Kari Birdseye – She and Vice Mayor Terry Scott introduced a 2-Step Process asking to explore a graduation of the MOU currently in place to a local ordinance and it was unanimously approved. They are now continuing conversations with Valero Leadership and others in the community. The next step of this process will be to receive a staff report on December 19th. Kari looks forward to the input of the CAP, Valero Leadership and the Fire Chief so that Benicia can have the best ordinance possible.
- Marilyn Bardet – She noted that she is very interested in the ordinance and pointed out that Contra Costa County adopted their ISO in 1998. She asked Dennis about the chart he presented at the City Council meeting and that she would like a copy.
- Cara Bateman – She watched the City Council Meeting about an Industrial Safety Ordinance and she looks forward to the conversation that is generated. She didn't appreciate that there was an article in the Benicia Herald which stated that if you watched the City Council meeting, you saw ISO opponents lobbying against the ISO. The public comments were simply asking about clarification on defining what is trying to be achieved. Cara felt that there are gross misrepresentation clouds from a portion of Benicia activists and she hopes those inaccurate perceptions they don't continue.
- Terry Crosby – She stated that, with respect to the ISO discussion, there will always be two sides regarding an issue such as this. She had nothing more to add.

Special Topics

- Hydrogen Plant Discussion – Josh Tulino discussed [BAAQMD's press release](#) about Regulation 8, Rule 28.
- Cooperation Agreement & Annual Report – Paul Adler distributed a copy of the [City of Benicia – Valero Benicia Refinery Cooperation Agreement](#) and briefly discussed the process safety elements of Cal ARP Program 4. He asked that future discussion about the Cooperation Agreement or an Industrial Safety Ordinance should identify missing issues or topics that are currently not being addressed.
- Topics for December 2023 – Community Information Night – It was decided that the Community Information Night will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, December 12th. The CAP team will work together to provide the topics and an advertisement will be created inviting the public to attend.

2023 CAP Calendar

- Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm – ‘Community Information Night’