



Activist Info

#5 8/3/09

RICHMOND PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE

Jobs and Clean Air: We Can Have Both

Jobs with decent wages and conditions are as essential to us as the air we breathe and the water we drink. When good jobs are not available, people accept unimaginable conditions in order to survive. They work in unsafe jobs, allow children to work under slave labor conditions, and live in communities that are unhealthy and dangerous. Without jobs, we cannot reduce crime, send our kids to good schools, or provide the community with services.

We see no conflict between jobs and a better environment. Not only are good jobs part of the social environment, cleaning up and preserving our air, water, and land require a huge increase in jobs. Our task is making sure that these jobs get funded and that the jobs contribute to the solution and not the problem.

The rub is that most jobs are controlled by corporations that have no positive interest in either jobs or the environment. With profits as the bottom line, corporations are driven to reducing the number of workers and their benefits. Corporations oppose environmental restrictions that add to their costs and reduce their profits.

Yet these corporations with their manipulation, power over immediate jobs, fear tactics, and PR have convinced many that there is a conflict between jobs and the environment.

The Richmond Progressive Alliance stands with the community in saying that we can have both safe jobs and community health. We insist that Chevron must provide both.



Richmond is at the center of a complex battle. It is very personal for many of us involving the health of our community and the amount of poisons in the air as well as our sources of income and the tax base of the city. The battle also concerns no less than the future of the planet. Can we modify the human processes which seem to be inevitably leading to the destruction of earth as we know. Both the personal issues and the global issues generate intense responses.

The City Council Meetings on July 21 and 28 had overflow crowds: hundreds of trades people angry and desperate over the loss of work at Chevron and members of the Richmond Community calling on Chevron to "Cap the Crude" as the critical step toward clean air and getting the jobs back.

For more details, and what's next see page 2. Other pages carry analysis. Finally copy and distribute the last page and help build the Clean Air for Richmond Rally - Festival - March, August 15.

MOBILIZE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 11:30am

RICHMOND BART 16th St. & Macdonald Ave,

FESTIVAL RALLY - 11:30am

MARCH ON CHEVRON - 1:00pm

Following the march, some participants will engage in a nonviolent civil disobedience action.



Also In This Issue

What you can do Page 2

Flyer for August 15 Page 7

Gayle McLaughlin: False Mitigation

Jeff Ritterman: A Hungry Man

Juan Reardon: Labor's Role

Charles Smith: Point Molate

The Battle at the Council

The laws in the US and the courts generally have a bias in favor of corporations. So Judge Zuniga's ruling in June that Chevron's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is unclear, flawed and in need of revision is an indication of how truly that report failed to comply with the *law*.

These flaws had been obvious all along and Council members McLaughlin, Butt, Thurmond, and Rogers had pointed them out when the EIR came before the Council last year. But the previous Majority of the Council who earned the name "Chevron Five," Bates, Veramontes, Lopez, Marquez, and Sandhu denied the flaws. Perhaps they were blinded by Chevron's offer to put up some money in the Community Benefits Agreement or by Chevron's political muscle.

The Richmond community responded by decisively defeating Marquez and Sandhu in the November election. A coalition of groups led by Communities for a Better Environment, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, and West Counties Toxics Coalition challenged the flaws in the EIR in court.

One month after the ruling, when Chevron failed to make serious moves to correct the EIR, the Judge gave the company 60 days to reach a solution or stop work. Chevron responded by *immediately* laying off 1100 workers weeks before it had to. It is quite possible that Chevron actually welcomed the opportunity to delay the project while refinery product demand is low because of the recession and at the same time use this to strike back at the Richmond community which lately had been standing up to the world's fifth largest corporation.

The Fear Factor

Chevron, its allies in the Chamber of Commerce, and some members of the Council majority sought to promote fear and spin the issue as unemployment caused by uncaring outsiders or unthinking environmentalist extremists. The CC statement, circulated by Chevron, quotes Councilman Nat Bates:

"By stopping this project these irreconcilable organizations, which are mostly non Richmond residents, will kill 1,300 jobs, eliminate \$61 million in spending on programs that help Richmond residents and prevent the refinery from making upgrades to its equipment that improve air quality. If you truly care about Richmond, you should be doing everything in your power to maintain existing jobs and create new ones – not take them away." Nat Bates - Richmond City Councilman.

[Judith Morgan, Richmond CC president continues] It's hard to add much to this comment. All I hear are dominos falling. This lawsuit and the stoppage of work are impacting small, medium and large businesses alike. Richmond restaurants and hotels expected to ride this recession filled with workers and their families from this project. In turn these workers shopped at local markets and bought local services. The empty hotel rooms and restaurant tables means less sales taxes, Transit Occupancy Taxes and Richmond Tourism Business Improvement District Assessments; revenue the City can ill afford to lose. Fewer customers means small businesses will layoff or cut hours or close their doors and the downward spiral continues.

Chevron's PR and manipulation of the workers through immediate layoffs initially had its desired effect—to pit desperate workers against a community with strong environmental concerns. (continued page 3)

What you can do

- Write letters to the papers.
- Make sure your organizations understand the issues. Call the RPA, CBE, APEN, WCTC, Sierra Club, or progressive Council members about getting speakers.
- Come to the next city council meeting in September if Chevron has not settled yet and testify from the heart. Every *new* voice counts much more.
- Come to the CBE, APEN WCTC Community meeting August 6, 630 Pm at St Marks Church.
- **Be sure to show your support by helping to build the August 15 Festival-Rally-March.**
- Get leaflets and materials, help phone, help build an educational "Roadshow" in Richmond. Flyers available in Spanish. Call Rachel Levine 415 571 9585, mcjbay@gmail.com
- **CLIMATE JUSTICE ART PARTY!**
Sunday August 9, Noon to 5pm
Help paint and make signs, flags and banners for Aug 15. Please bring friends to paint and snacks/drinks to share. Questions? David 510 967-7377

What is Mobilization for Climate Justice

The August 15 March-Festival in Richmond is just one event in an international mobilization leading up to the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen this December. Activists have joined together to build a movement that emphasizes non-violent direct action to promote effective and just solutions to the climate crisis. Organizations that are collaborating in this effort include Direct Action to Stop the War, EarthJustice, Global Exchange, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, Rising Tide, Ruckus Society, 350.org as well as local groups like RPA, APEN, CBE and WCTC.

The coalition stands against corporate domination of climate policy and bringing in views of indigenous and front-line communities so that climate policies are rooted in the public interest. The Mobilization demands:

CLEAN AIR FOR RICHMOND & THE BAY;

STOP OIL REFINERY EXPANSIONS

CORPORATIONS OUT OF COPENHAGEN CLIMATE TALKS!

In September, the West Coast Convergence for Climate Justice and Action is holding a three days series of workshops in Richmond focused on climate justice and showcasing local, community-led solutions for mitigating climate change. For more information check out

www.actforclimatejustice.org/west

Battle at Council continued

Hundreds of building trades were mobilized to attend Richmond City Council meetings. The Council has little formal power in this legal situation. So the mass pressure at Council meetings was a way to put political pressure on those in the community who campaign against pollution and perhaps embarrass those Council members who had opposed the “Chevron Five.” They had hoped the Council meeting on July 28 would be a decisive victory and pressure the council into clear support for Chevron.

But community members also mobilized. More than fifty people asked to speak. As the meeting continued several points became clear.

- While the City and environmental groups agreed to Attorney General Brown’s offer to mediate, it was Chevron that refused this offer. At the previous meeting the building trades leaders had cheered when this offer was made. Now they say nothing.
- Chevron had 60 days to try to work out a settlement before stopping the project. Instead it laid off 1100 workers immediately. Again not a word from the union leadership.
- Environmentalists’ main demand is that Chevron put in verifiable enforceable written language the verbal commitment it has made that it will not process heavier, dirtier crude oil. Why can’t the building trades leadership, which

insists that everything from work rules and wages be specified in written contracts, support the communities reasonable demand?

- In encouraging Chevron to appeal the injunction, the city council is slowing things down as the legal process drags on. The way to get back to work immediately is to pressure Chevron to settle

As the debate continued the community’s message seemed to become dominant: “We must unite, this is Chevron’s fault. We can have clean air and jobs too.”

Many of the trades people seemed to be moved and engaged in positive discussions with community activists. The council passed a long but muddled resolution. The truth is that this a political battle. Chevron wants a free hand in its development of energy resources. The community is insisting on reasonable restrictions. The main barrier to an agreement which will get people back to work and protect the community’s health concerns is Chevrons refusal to agree to “CAP the Crude” in a way that can be verified rather than relying on their good intentions. Right now they hoping that their political pressure will free them from their legal and moral obligations on this. It is up to us to counter the pressure they are generating.

-Mike Parker
Member RPA and
United Auto Workers

What will it take for a settlement?

*The fastest way for workers to get back to work is for Chevron and the Environmental groups who brought the suit to come to an agreement. The environmental groups, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), and West County Toxics Coalition (WCTC) have been willing to negotiate. **Here is their position:***

What does the community want?

Chevron should protect the community’s and worker’s health and provide jobs. Chevron has proposed a project that would expand the refinery to process dirtier oil which would cause more pollution. The judge agreed with us that the environmental review was flawed. No expansion of Chevron’s facilities should be allowed without a thorough analysis of what the effects of processing lower quality of oil will be on the community. Children are already hospitalized for asthma at almost twice the rate of children in the rest of the county.

What does the court’s order mean for workers and jobs?

Chevron makes its own hiring and firing decisions and is trying to make the community choose between jobs and our health. We know this is a false choice. We must have both.

Short-term, Chevron can and should reassign work instead of laying people off. Chevron should guarantee the community that the project will not refine dirtier oil that will result in

more pollution so that the project can move forward and the workers can get back to work.

Are CBE, APEN, and West County Toxic Coalition still open to settling the case since we’ve won now?

Yes. We made a detailed proposal to Chevron and the city before we filed the lawsuit and we are still open to and still awaiting Chevron’s detailed public response.

What Chevron Needs to Do?

Prevent any increase in pollution for the project and implement the maximum feasible reductions in pollution through equipment replacements at the refinery.

Reduce annual GHG emissions from the refinery by a million tons concurrent with the startup of the proposed new hydrogen plant.

Reinstate Chevron’s “Community Benefits Agreements” with the City without strings attached and drop Chevron’s lawsuit against Measure T, which Richmond voters approved last year.



Debunking False Mitigation

We are living in the 21st Century, a new era bringing with it new and deepening challenges. In Richmond, home to the Richmond Chevron oil refinery, we have seen how our community rallies time and time again in support of environmental justice and environmental health. Most recently support for a healthy Richmond has come to us by way of a court ruling, which stated that the environmental review of the Chevron Hydrogen and Energy Renewal Project was flawed and failed to include a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of the refinery expansion. Judge Zuniga's ruling is a welcome reaffirmation of our ongoing concerns. While we continue to support a modernization of the refinery, modernization must come with strict verifiable regulations in place that reduce the pollution that has been spewed into our air for decades.

Opportunity to get it right

This is an opportunity for us all in Richmond. We have the opportunity to get it right this time. We have an opportunity to begin to reduce heavily polluted air, high rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and we have the opportunity to provide good jobs on a good project. We also have an additional opportunity – we can begin to seriously tackle the issue of Climate Change that continues to place our planet's survival, and therefore our human survival as well, in jeopardy.

Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emission

It is this last issue that I want to talk about. It is not surprising that the Chevron Richmond Refinery is already an enormous emitter of greenhouse gasses. Compared to other Bay Area cities, Richmond's transportation emissions make up only a tiny proportion of the total GHG emissions, dwarfed by Richmond's large percentage of industrial emissions. (Industry emits 87.8%, while transportation emits 8.7%. Chevron generates close to 100% of point source emissions.) The expansion project will add nearly a million additional metric tons of GHG annually. This places Richmond in a pivotal role for regulating industry in the fight for reversing global warming.

The legal term for reducing unwanted effects is *mitigation*. Judge Zuniga, after studying the matter, agreed that the GHG mitigation plan in the EIR approved by the Council majority was so deficient that it had to be corrected even though work had started.

Fortunately, environmental groups (including CBE, APEN, WCTC and EarthJustice, the plaintiffs in this legal challenge against the City of Richmond) have been studying this issue

of GHG mitigations for some time now, and the research done has raised some real concerns for me in regard to this Chevron refinery expansion.

AB 32 Loophole

It has been stated that one of the ways in which Chevron will assure no net increase of GHG emissions from this project is by adhering to AB 32, California's Global Warming Solutions Act. What has not been sufficiently stated is that there exists a big loophole in AB 32. This loophole, in an otherwise exemplary global warming program, would allow polluters to use "offsets." These offsets are "credits" based on emission reductions in one place which can be used as a substitute for making reductions somewhere else.

substitute for making reductions somewhere else.

How does this loophole impact the Chevron expansion project? Well, first of all, even if an effective and fully sufficient mitigation plan is implemented for this project (and I hope one does get implemented), there still remains a big problem. Using this loophole, Chevron can claim this mitigation on the new project to allow it to increase emissions (or limit required reduction) in

other parts of the refinery. There is no City benefit in mitigating the expansion project to "net zero" emissions if Chevron is allowed to do this.

The claims of some City officials of having sufficiently mitigated the GHG emissions in the Chevron Hydrogen and Renewal Project come from insufficient knowledge. Any responsible mitigation plan must not allow for this.

The Richmond City Council passed a resolution on September 17, 2008 committing to aggressive GHG emission reductions in line with State of California targets. GHG mitigations identified specifically for the expansion project must be counted only once. Otherwise, the City of Richmond will be sabotaging its own forward-thinking policy.

It is incumbent upon us, as progressives, to look at the complexities of this issue and also look at the complexities of the time in which we live. Each of us has a responsibility to strengthen our sensitivity and our integrity. We all know we have a deeply committed environmental justice and environmental health movement in Richmond. We also know we are a strong city of working families, who need to continue the fight for good jobs. Richmond can also become a leader for climate justice. I believe there is no greater joy at this time in history than working to ensure the probability of a sustainable future for all.

---Gayle McLaughlin



Mayor McLaughlin speaking at a CBE press conference in North Richmond highlighting the dangers of pollution to the communities near the refinery.

Open Invitation to Contra Costa Labor:

Let's Build a Real Coalition

Seattle 1999

Ten years ago I was in the streets of Seattle with locked-out steelworkers, environmentalists, working class students, and members of the faith community who were together to fight the World Trade Organization and its labor and environmental injustices. The voices of peoples from all over the global south mixed with the protesting chants of the American teamsters and laid-off workers who converged to Seattle from all across America. For the first time, large numbers of workers were thinking globally and realizing the need of international community solidarity and support.

The Teamsters' vice president Chuck Mack attacked the secret deals of the WTO and NAFTA and their consequences on American workers and workers everywhere: "We will no longer accept a secret society that affects our lives," Mack said. The Sierra Club president stated: "Who the hell asked for the WTO and NAFTA? The United Auto Workers president Steve Yokich said: "Enough speeches. We know why we are here. Let's go to the streets!" The world's jaw dropped.

In the years that followed, the progressive movement and environmentalists struggled hard and marched on many occasions for a healthier and more just world. Here in Richmond, we demanded a better arrangement between Richmond and Chevron, less pollution, the end of wars for oil, the reversing of NAFTA, and corporate globalization.

Labor was not present in most of these local struggles. On November 4, 2005 Greg Freere, the president of Contra Costa Building and Trades Council and Tom Baca, president of Local 549 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers led pickets of union workers against the Chevron refinery in Richmond protesting the arrival of large out-of-state, non-union, workers brought in by Chevron. The progressives, including Richmond councilmember Gayle McLaughlin and Andres Soto from RPA, defended the picketers and condemned the arrest of Tom Baca by Richmond police.

The Richmond Sunshine Alliance

The same year, 2005, the Contra Costa Building and Trades reached out to the community for help against a common practice by the City of Richmond to hide Chevron permits from the unions and the public. Months would go by before anyone found out what was Chevron doing, often only after it was done. The West County Toxics Coalition, Communities for a Better Environment, the Richmond Greens and the Richmond Progressive Alliance came into a coalition, Rich-

mond Sunshine Alliance, that mobilized the community in support of the City of Richmond's policy of transparency, which was successfully passed. That year we also ended Chevron's right to self-inspect. "We will not forget," said the unions. The community and environmentalists had helped to make sure that labor would know in advance the type of project Chevron was doing and insure that the jobs went to unionized workers. We were glad to build together a better Richmond. In 2008, the building trades council acknowledged that the environmental impact report (EIR) for Chevron's massive expansion plan was the worse EIR they had ever seen, and they pledged to work with the community and its environmental leaders and organizations to oppose it. Some of us felt that the spirit of Seattle was finally re-emerging in Richmond.

Unions change course

It was not the case. In the middle of crossing that river, the unions changed horses and abandoned the community-environmental coalition against the Chevron expansion, thinking only of the promised construction jobs. They said that Chevron had "gotten to" their national union headquarters in Washington, DC, and forced them away from the Richmond popular coalition. Some unions

remained silent, neither supporting nor publicly opposing Chevron's EIR. Other unions strongly supported Chevron's demands. Some individual 'labor leaders' found additional ways to scorn the community's desperation and attempts to defend itself from more pollution. Nagajara Rao, for instance, a Central Labor Council member who also sits on the Richmond Planning Commission, acknowledged the many problems with the proposal, but then flipped-flopped and

voted to recommend approval of Chevron's plan. Don Gosney, the president of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342, collaborated with political dirtmonger Darrell Reese in preparing electoral hit pieces against candidates who opposed the Chevron plan.

Goliath and David

We, the community and environmentalists, often lose these battles. Goliath often prevails and David ends up with more repression and more pollution. This time, however, the community and the environmentalists defeated Chevron's assault. At least in this first round. We stopped Chevron's plans to use the modernization to allow it to process dirtier crude.

It is now back to the drawing board or to an appeal court. What side are you on, Labor? Chevron or Richmond? Chevron could have agreed with the basic and reasonable demands of the Richmond community and signed a veri-



fiable pledge that no heavier crude oil would be refined at the Richmond refinery. Construction of many important and acceptable components of the refinery retooling could have been ongoing and uninterrupted.

Chevron, however, rather than giving our community the guarantees of cleaner air that we demand has chosen to stick to its incomplete and ultimately illegal EIR and to appeal the court decision to a higher court abruptly stopping the construction under the condemned EIR in the hope to use the building trades as a weapon against the community forces.

The building trades are now under a lot of pressure for their error of judgment, for not choosing to join the community and the environmentalists to demand from Chevron a project acceptable to all. But we are all still on a path where Labor can switch over and come to the right side of this struggle.

In recent days we have seen the Building Trades Council mobilize the frustrated victims of their errors, the laid-off workers, to put pressure on the Richmond City Council, the community and environmentalist organizations and leaders "to make this project, these jobs happen". Some labor representatives came to community meetings to urge Richmond residents to be "sensible" and make the project happen. Where is the pressure on Chevron? Not one public statement has been made by the building trades unions against Chevron's irresponsible proposal, its flawed EIR and its related actions. We have not seen in Richmond any picket lines protesting Chevron's mishandling of the project and/or the laying off the workers.

There is still time to make this project happen, and for the jobs to be re-started: Join us to tell Chevron to do what is the right. We were there for you when you needed us. The labor movement needs allies. The labor movement has become smaller and weaker in the past decade. So-called allies have been deserting the labor movement. EFCA and state cuts are recent examples. The environmental movement has grown and can not be ignored. It is time to mutually build our strength and make the coalition a real and powerful force.

This is an invitation to the building trades to join the protest against Chevron's greed and corporate irresponsibility on August 15. Join us to demand of Chevron: CAP the OIL! END POLLUTION with UNION JOBS!

Labor, community, and activists working together for a better Richmond and a better world. We did it in Seattle. It has been done before in Richmond. It can be done again.

—Juan Reardon

Veteran of the Battle of Seattle
and a member of RPA and IFPTE-Local 21



A Hungry Man

*them belly full but we hungry
a hungry mob is a angry mob*

from Dem Belly Full by Bob Marley

A Hungry Man is an Angry Man

final comment made by a disgruntled building trades worker during
Richmond City Council Open Forum 7/21/09

The building trades workers have lost their jobs and they are angry. Homes, families, the health and well being of hard working men and women hang in the balance as the negotiations continue over the Chevron Expansion.

At the city council meeting, the anger seemed mostly directed at the council or perhaps at those on the council like myself who don't believe that pressuring the plaintiffs is the appropriate course of action.

I believe the best course of action is an alliance of the building trades workers and the plaintiffs working toward a refinery upgrade which is aimed at protecting our community just as much as it is aimed at making Chevron a profit.

Why is it not expected that the very first place refinery profits should be invested in, is in making the surrounding community as safe as possible. Throughout the discussion on the expansion I heard over and over again how the expansion was important in order to replace 100 year old infrastructure. That should have happened already and it should happen immediately and the workers should be put back to work doing that immediately.

There is no better place for refinery profits than in making sure that Richmond residents who already suffer the highest asthma rates in the county are as protected as modern technology allows. Right now that profit is going mostly to wealthy individuals who either save the money or spend it on a luxury items. While unemployment rises astronomically, there is a waiting list for yachts.

That is our reality. We are the most unequal of all of the wealthy nations on earth and that has happened since Reagan's presidency and was accelerated greatly by both Bush presidencies. We are becoming more and more unequal -see graph. We are simply no longer a middle class society and our labor unions lack strength. That's why the national union cut a deal with Chevron, out of weakness, not out of strength. Ultimately that deal undermined the otherwise potential alliance between labor and the community. Developing the alliance of labor, the community and environmental groups is the only way out of the quagmire in which we find ourselves. We cannot move forward without that alliance.

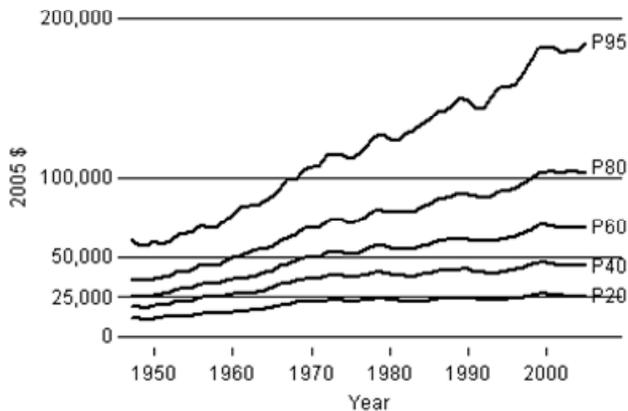
Part and parcel of this redistribution of wealth and income from the bottom and the middle to the very top has been an enormous growth in corporate wealth and power. Chevron is



**Councilman
Jeff Ritterman**

(Continued on page 7)

Inequality rising: inflation-adjusted pretax family incomes, 1947-2005



California's biggest corporation. They pay lower rates of income tax now than they did during Reagan's presidency. They have amassed huge profits and have distributed them mostly to the already rich. You can't blame them. That's what they are supposed to do by law, make money.

It is up to civil society to understand the forces at work and to redistribute income and wealth and power back to the bottom and the middle. That's why the alliance we need to solve the problem is one of the workers joining with the plaintiffs and other members of the community.

In addition to the problem of growing inequality, is the fact that the maldistribution of income, wealth and power is denied and is invisible to most of us most of the time even though we have a nagging suspicion that things are not as they should be.

So my plea is that we all awaken from our slumber, understand that what needs most to be redressed is a terrible imbalance of power, wealth and income which has been the conscious effort of many. It must be our conscious effort to rebuild middle class America.

Understanding this, leads naturally to an alliance between the laborers, and the environmental community.

I am not bashing Chevron here. They are good at making gasoline. It's no small feat what they accomplish in the Richmond Refinery and they do have a deep ethic of workplace safety. Mike Coyle, their GM, is a very decent man. But they cannot have the best interests of the community at heart. A corporation is set up to maximize profits. Their leaders don't live in Richmond and senior leadership rarely come to Richmond. Their job is to make gasoline.

Our job is to protect the community and the environment for all time.

It is also our job to provide economic opportunities for our residents. In order to do that we need both the alliance of workers and environmentalist but also a new partnership with Chevron. I believe that there is common ground to be found. I believe that our best chance of getting there is by the alliance I am proposing.

-Jeff Ritterman, M.D.
Richmond City Council

Point Molate Developers Pressing Again

Once again developer Jim Levine is pounding the sidewalks of Richmond, pressing the flesh while promoting his pipe dream, Point Molate Casino. The latest version of the casino will be "green", as if that would change the negative social and economic impacts on our community. Independent studies on urban casinos have repeatedly drawn the same conclusion: casinos are an economic drain on communities within a thirty to fifty mile radius. Richmond will be no exception. Casinos prey upon retirees, Asians, Hispanics, African Americans and those people who have little money and fewer opportunities to earn money. Money lost in a casino is money not spent in local businesses. Gambling robs families of needed money for food and paying bills. Casinos attract loan sharks, drug dealers, pimps and prostitutes. Casinos are responsible for a rise in embezzlement and employee theft. Casinos provide low paying dead-end jobs and don't hire felons. The money promised the community will not cover the demand for social services created by the casinos. Indian casinos have sovereign nation status: the community has no power over them. Please contact the Richmond City Council, let them know that you do not want a casino in our back yard.

--Charles T Smith

RPA Activist Info

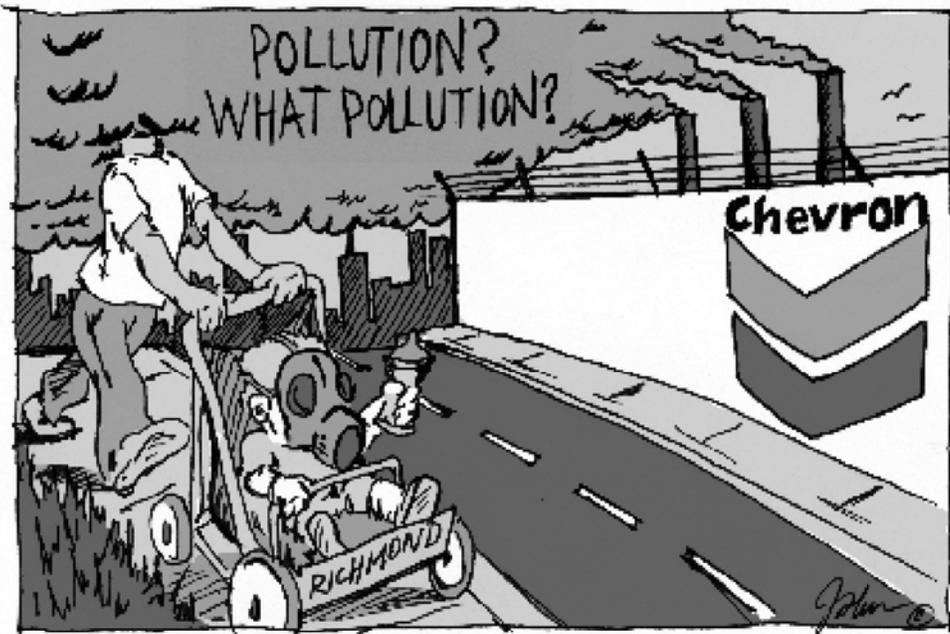
is for Richmond community members who want to be active in taking on the problems of the environment, racism, joblessness, housing, and crime to create a healthy Richmond. We believe that community involvement means more than voting every two years. It means regular communication with the candidates we elect, letting them know our issues and positions, supporting them as they try to take our issues forward. It means we attend meetings, use the email, phone our neighbors, or go on marches building an organized movement to create real change.

Comments and columns are welcome. Signed articles and columns are the views of the author and not necessarily those of the RPA. Send photos, articles, and comments to RPAactivist@gmail.com or call the RPA at 510-595-4661

**United We Demand,
Divided We Beg!**

*Construction worker commenting on
Chevron Debate at Richmond Council*

LIKE TO BREATHE?



You probably like to eat, too. What if some dictator forced you to choose just one of them? A healthy community has jobs and clean air; economic justice and environmental justice. In Richmond, our children are hospitalized for asthma at twice the state rate. Breathe or Eat? Stand with the people who demand clean air AND good jobs for a truly healthy community.

CLEAN AIR FOR RICHMOND FESTIVAL - RALLY - MARCH*

Saturday, August 15 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Macdonald and 12th Street - BART parking lot

**SPEAKERS MUSIC THEATRE
GAMES FOOD**



*after the rally, people will march to the Chevron refinery

more information: actforclimatejustice.org/west or phone 510 550 2836