

APPENDIX C

Comment Letters of Project Support

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STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3070
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4001
FAX (916) 324-2680

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS

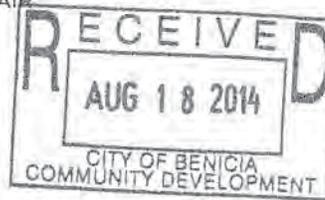
EL DORADO HILLS
4359 TOWN CENTER BLVD.
SUITE 112
EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762
TEL (916) 933-7213
FAX (916) 933-7234

REDDING
1670 MARKET STREET
SUITE 244
REDDING, CA 96001
TEL (530) 225-3142
FAX (530) 225-3143

California State Senate

SENATOR TED GAINES
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR



COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
VICE CHAIR

INSURANCE
VICE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION &
HOUSING
VICE CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT &
RETIREMENT

Ms. Amy Million
Principal Planner, Community Development Department
250 East L Street,
Benicia, California 94510

Mr. Kilger,

I am writing to express my full support for Valero's proposed Benicia Crude-by-Rail project.

The Valero Benicia Refinery will operate with safety standards and protocols that exceed Cal/OSHA standards, which exemplifies Valero's commitment to protecting its employees and the communities where it does business. Union Pacific Railroad shares a similar commitment and has deservedly earned a reputation for safe operations. I am confident that their philosophies, expertise, extensive planning and cooperation will ensure a safe project.

In addition, more than a dozen regulatory agencies oversee the transportation of crude-by-rail. Comprehensive federal regulations ensure that crude transport by rail continues to be safe for our communities – just as it has been for decades. These regulations are currently being evaluated federally and Valero and Union Pacific Railroad have guaranteed full cooperation with any changes that result from this evaluation. Piecemeal rules and regulations would only interfere with what is now a seamless regulatory scheme and unduly interfere with the federal rail experts who have been monitoring this method of transport for more than 40 years. This is the basis for preemption of local regulation of rail activities.

The Draft EIR is a comprehensive analysis of the risks associated with this project by a variety of independent experts hired by the City of Benicia. Their report affirms that this project is beneficial environmentally and economically and can be done safely given the prevention, preparedness and response measures in place by both Valero and Union Pacific Railroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Gaines".

TED GAINES
Senator, 1st District

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4004

CHICO DISTRICT OFFICE
2653 FOREST AVE., STE. 110
CHICO, CA 95928
(530) 879-7424

CRESCENT CITY DISTRICT OFFICE
1080 MASON MALL, STE. 4
CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
(707) 464-1255

ROSEVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE
2200A DOUGLAS BLVD., STE. 100
ROSEVILLE, CA 95765
(916) 772-0571

YUBA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE
409 CENTER ST., STE. C
YUBA CITY, CA 95993
(530) 751-8657

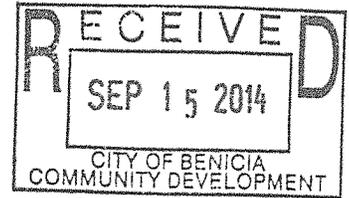
California State Senate



SENATOR
JIM NIELSEN

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
HEALTH
INSURANCE
VETERANS AFFAIRS



September 11, 2014

Amy Million, Principal Planner
Community Development Department
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Re: Valero Crude by Rail Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Million:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Benicia's Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Valero Crude-by-Rail Project. The Draft EIR comprehensively analyzes the potential impacts and mitigation measures for this project. I am fully confident in the project as outlined in the Draft EIR and believe that both the Valero Benicia Refinery and Union Pacific Railroad can and will operate safely.

Per the California Environmental Quality Act, the purpose of a Draft EIR is to identify the impacts associated with a potential project and what steps, if any, are needed to mitigate them. The City's Draft EIR for the Valero project addresses all potential impacts of the project under CEQA and correctly identifies the boundaries of City jurisdiction when addressing railroad operations given federal preemption.

The issue of rail safety has been raised often in relation to this project. As America's energy renaissance sees increased use of trains for crude transportation, it is important that we look at current laws and regulations to ensure community and environmental safety here and for communities across the nation. In order to be effective, these policy issues must be addressed completely and cohesively.

Preemption requires that discussions of rail safety and operations be directed to the federal government. Neither the City of Benicia nor the Valero Benicia Refinery as the sole applicant has authority to regulate Union Pacific or rail safety issues given federal preemption. Despite these limitations, the DEIR explored the potential for relatively minor releases of crude oil, which was found to be reduced when compared to current marine delivery.

In conclusion, I support the extensive efforts of independent experts, the City of Benicia and their findings in the Draft EIR. I recognize the importance continued discussions about rail safety but want to emphasize that these conversations must be had at the federal rather than local level to have a lasting impact for our communities.

Thank you,

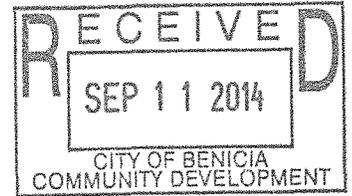
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JIM NIELSEN
Senator, District Four

California Legislature



DAN LOGUE
ASSEMBLYMAN, 3RD DISTRICT



August 20, 2014

Amy Million
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Ms. Million,

I wish to express my complete support for Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project and the City of Benicia's Draft Environmental Impact Report. I have full confidence in the analysis of independent experts as it relates to this project and in the abilities of the refinery, railroad, and local and uprail first responders to ensure this project is operated safely.

Moving crude oil by rail is not a new mode of transportation. In fact, this material and other hazardous materials has been safely transported by rail for many years. Transporting crude by rail provides great benefits to communities throughout California and across the country, including job creation, increased tax revenues and support for local and regional industries.

But the value of this project far exceeds the associated jobs and tax revenues. Per the Draft Environmental Impact Report, this project will have significant environmental benefits, including a reduction in statewide air emissions and greenhouse gases. It also reduces the likelihood of a crude oil release, thereby ensuring that this project prioritizes community safety in Benicia and uprail communities.

The Valero Benicia Refinery is one of the newest and most advanced refineries in the nation. Their safety record is unquestionable, as evidenced by their continuous designation as a Cal/OSHA VPP Star Site since 2006. The refinery has indicated that safety will continue to be paramount to their operations by committing to go above and beyond federal mandates in their safety standards and procedures, including the use of 1232 tank cars rather than DOT-111s.

Over a dozen regulatory agencies will oversee the implementation and operation of this project. The Valero Benicia Refinery and Union Pacific Railroad have also adopted voluntary safety measures, including increased prevention, preparedness and response training for local and

regional first responders which only furthers their commitment to working together to benefit the communities they operate in.

By collaborating with regulatory agencies and local and uprail first responders, the proposed Crude by Rail project will be safe, environmentally conscious and economically beneficial to Benicia and uprail communities. It will also ensure that a vital industry in the region is able to remain competitive in a shifting marketplace and maintain safe operations while continuing to provide regional economic prosperity and clean burning fuels to California consumers.

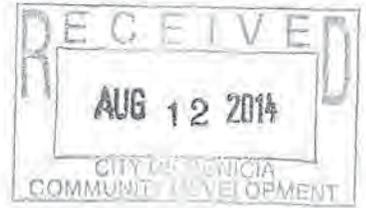
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Logue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Assemblyman, 3rd Assembly District



BENICIA INDUSTRIAL PARK ASSOCIATION
A COMMITTEE OF THE BENICIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
601 First Street, Suite 100, Benicia CA 94510 • 707-745-2120
www.beniciaipa.org / email: beniciachamber@aol.com



TO: Benicia Planning Commissioners, Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Jasmin Powell, President, Benicia Industrial Park Association (BIPA)
DATE: August 11, 2014
RE: Support Valero Crude By Rail Project

The Benicia Industrial Park is a vital economic segment of the city of Benicia. The Benicia Industrial Park is the largest Industrial Park in Solano County. It comprises over 600 businesses with varied focus including warehousing, manufacturing, transportation and oil refining. Any business owner will tell you that in order to succeed, you must constantly strive to increase revenue and decrease costs, without affecting the quality of your product or risking the safety of your people. This is exactly what Valero, Benicia's largest business, is trying to do with their proposed Crude by Rail project.

The Benicia Industrial Park Association is in favor of this project based on the following:

This is a logistical change from ship to rail

Valero currently brings in its crude oil via ship from all over the world. The project would allow Valero the ability to bring in domestic crude oil from the U.S. via railcar.

Valero, like all businesses, needs to find ways to remain competitive

It is crucial that Valero be allowed to access new sources of crude oil and be allowed to transport the crude by rail, ensuring that Benicia's largest employer will remain competitive with nearby refineries.

Valero's refining process is not changing

The kinds of crude Valero processes, which are under stringent environmental and air quality requirements, will not change. It will not affect refinery operations, alter the refinery's crude feedstock profile or change the amount of crude coming into the city. It will maintain current compliance with Bay Area Air Quality Management District permit levels and could actually reduce air emissions in the local air basin.

Valero has an outstanding safety record

Valero has such a high safety history and safety standards, that Valero has earned the Cal/OSHA VPP Star Site designation. There are only two refineries in the state that hold this designation. The other is also a Valero refinery located in Southern California. This is proof that Valero goes above and beyond when it comes to setting and maintaining a safe work environment for the company and employees. This commitment is further demonstrated by their commitment to use only improved design railcars and not the legacy DOT 111 cars. Valero has proven that safety is of the utmost importance to them and to our community.

Federal Rail Safety is improving

Federal regulators and railroad companies recently agreed to a number of new safety measures for crude transport, including increasing track inspections, implementing new, more advanced braking systems, using a new rail traffic routing technology to better determine the most safe and secure routes, and implementing new speed reduction protocols, among others. Agreements such as this are an important step for quick action that will ensure the railways continue to transport both people and goods in the safest way possible.

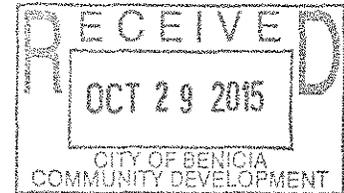
Valero's complete cooperation

Valero initially submitted its Land Use Permit in December of 2012. Since that time, Valero has cooperated fully and openly with the City and community of Benicia. The City released its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in June of 2014. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this document to consider many factors, including air quality, hazards/safety and transportation/traffic, among others. This DEIR is available for anyone to access and is the best source of factual information with regard to this project and its potential impacts on our local community and the surrounding area.

This is an infrastructure project that will install rail tracks and an unloading rack on Valero's property with the capability to safely replace marine delivery of crude with rail delivery. The Valero Benicia Refinery is a vital part of our local economy and the largest contributor to Benicia's General Fund. The Benicia Industrial Park Association supports this project.



BENICIA INDUSTRIAL PARK ASSOCIATION
A COMMITTEE OF THE BENICIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
601 First Street, Suite 100, Benicia CA 94510
707-745-2120 / Fax 707-745-2275
www.beniciaipa.org / email: beniciachamber@aol.com



TO: Benicia Planning Commissioners, Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Jasmin Powell, President, Benicia Industrial Park Association (BIPA)
DATE: October 28, 2015
RE: Support Valero Crude By Rail Project

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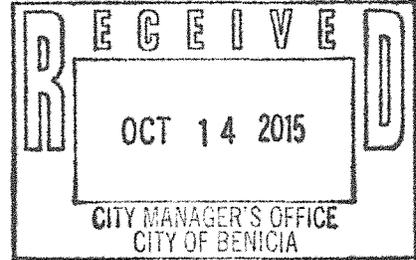
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CSL# 329632

BENICIA PLUMBING, INC.

P.O. BOX 1095 • 265 W. CHANNEL CT. • BENICIA, CA 94510
PHONE: 707-745-2930 • FAX: 707-745-0967
www.beniciaplumbing.com



October 12, 2015

Mr. Brad Kilger, City Manager
Ms. Amy Million, Principal Planner
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Brad and Amy,

As an employer in the Benicia Industrial Park and with the release of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), Valero's crude by rail project has proven once again to be an economic viable and environmentally sound and sustainable project.

There are numerous preventative measures and procedures in place by not only the local, state and federal governments, but Valero, too, has a robust safety policy/procedure and lockdown safety program in place. Valero continues to have one of the most prestigious safety records and has been the only refinery in northern California to be recognized with the VPP Star Site Award for safety and preventative procedures since 2006. Its commitment to mutual aid provides added security that its efforts extend well beyond the refinery's border.

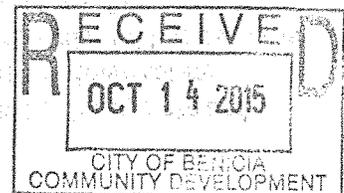
Valero has proven to be interwoven into the Benicia community. It provides over 450 local jobs here in Benicia and over 3,900 in the region. Through taxes paid to the City of Benicia, Valero contributes 25% of the entire General Fund. Approving this project will only ensure more jobs and more tax revenue to support our beautiful City of Benicia. Additionally, the infrastructure improvements to the Industrial Park could be made with some of this additional tax revenue. Lastly, the Industrial Park can perhaps attract the necessary tenants that it has been striving to accomplish for years.

The Revised DEIR is comprehensive in its analysis and the benefits of this project extend to all Benicians. On behalf of Benicia Plumbing, I urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

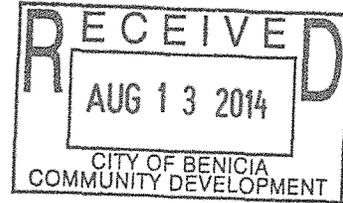
My best,

Heidi A. Benjamin, CIT
Vice President/Chief Financial Officer





Clean Harbors
42 Longwater Drive
P.O. Box 9149
Norwell, MA 02061-9149
781.792.5000
800.282.0058
www.cleanharbors.com



August 12, 2014

Attention: Benicia Planning Commission:

I have been a resident of Benicia for 35 years and have seen the community/business growth throughout the years. Valero is a great asset to our community in the aspects of support to local business, job opportunities and financial stability.

After attending Valero's community meeting to review the city's Draft Environmental Impact Report, I am fully supportive of their proposed Crude by Rail Project. As the DEIR explained, this project will actually reduce air emissions in the Bay Area, including Greenhouse Gases, and eliminate up to 82% of the annual delivery by ship.

This Project is simply a logistics project to provide the refinery with more access to crude from North America. By increasing our use of domestic crude, we can reduce reliance on foreign sources and hopefully become energy independent. This project will also generate millions of dollars in additional tax revenues and require approximately 20 permanent jobs and 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction not to mention that it will continue to support our local community.

As long term residents have witnessed within neighboring communities the loss of industry has a detrimental effect on local jobs, local business and tax revenue creating reductions in the ability to staff First Responders that support our quality of life. (i.e. Vallejo with the loss of Mare Island and Alameda with the loss of the Naval Air Station. The impact felt from those loses continue today.)

Environmental sensitivity, increased use of domestic crude rather than oil from abroad, and jobs and tax revenues would all result from this project. I believe this project is a win-win for Benicians and Valero.

Thank you,

Estella Peterman
General Manager,
Clean Harbors Industrial Services
4101 Industrial Way, Benicia CA 94510

"People and Technology Creating a Safer, Cleaner Environment"

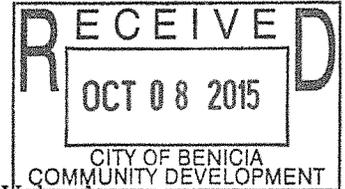
Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local Union No. 16

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO AND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT

3801 PARK ROAD
BENICIA, CA 94510



(707) 748-1616
FAX (707) 748-1620
www.insulators16-wica.com



Dear City of Benicia Planning Commissioners:

I am writing as a Benicia Industrial Park business and a strong supporter of Valero's proposed Crude by Rail Project. The refinery is an important member of the Industrial Park and a vital member of the Benicia community, contributing 25% of the City's annual General Fund revenues.

Our office staff, members and apprentice trainees are excited to see both the city and local businesses investing in these types of infrastructure projects that will ultimately bring more growth and business opportunities to our area. Valero's continued success is vital to the success of Benicia's economy.

The city has spent nearly three years working with independent experts to review this project. It's time for the refinery to move forward with a project that will benefit our environment and economy by reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the annual tax revenues.

We believe that all industrial facilities should continually upgrade their equipment and their processing methods so that the safety of the workers and surrounding community is improved. This project is another step in right direction.

Should you have any questions, or would like to discuss the issue further, please contact me directly. You are also welcome to stop by our office and training facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Melvin Breshears
Business Manager

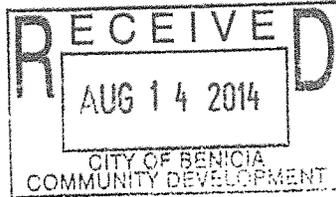


LOCAL UNION 180

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

SERVING NAPA AND SOLANO COUNTIES SINCE 1901

STAN NELSON
PRESIDENT



August 14, 2014

DAN BROADWATER
BUSINESS MANAGER

To the Benicia Planning Commission,

As the Business Manager of IBEW Local 180, I represent over 600 Electricians throughout Napa and Solano Counties, including many that have worked at the Valero Benicia Refinery on a variety of projects. While the work is diverse, one thing remains the same: this refinery demonstrates a consistent, day-to-day dedication to safety that is truly commendable.

The Valero Benicia Refinery is a model partner on projects. The site is one of the newest in the nation and the refinery's emphasis on extensive standards and protocols ensures a safe work environment for all. Fair wages, economic activity stimulated by construction and the temporary jobs it requires, and a commitment to community safety make Valero a community partner that benefits us all.

The Crude by Rail project is an opportunity for the refinery to remain competitive while creating 20 permanent, full-time, good paying jobs and requiring 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction. This will provide a significant economic boost in the region while helping Benicia's largest employer to remain competitive.

I urge you to support this Crude by Rail project as it is a win-win proposition.

Thank you,

Dan Broadwater
Business Manager IBEW Local 180

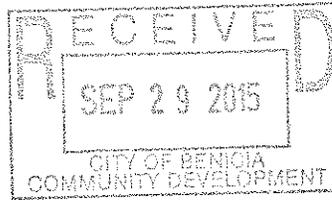


LOCAL UNION 180

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

SERVING NAPA AND SOLANO COUNTIES SINCE 1901

STAN NELSON
PRESIDENT



DAN BROADWATER
BUSINESS MANAGER

To the Benicia City Officials,

September 28, 2015

As the Business Manager of IBEW Local 180, I represent over 600 Electricians throughout Napa and Solano Counties. Many of these have worked at the Valero Benicia Refinery on various projects. Though our electricians work on a variety of projects, no matter how big or how small, the Valero Benicia Refinery demonstrates a day-to-day dedication to safety. Their site is one of the newest in the nation and the refinery's emphasis on extensive standards and protocols ensures a safe work environment for all. The safety culture of Valero is one of the many reasons I support the crude by rail expansion.

This project has been in review for almost three years and still remains an opportunity for the refinery to access a domestic crude oil source while creating local good paying jobs. The Valero Benicia Refinery already provides 450 local jobs for Benicia and stimulates 3,900 in the region. Finishing the crude by rail project would create 20 permanent jobs, 120 construction jobs and increase the tax revenue flow to the City. Being the largest employer in Benicia, Valero provides 25% of the City's General Fund. Additional revenue can help fulfill budget shortfalls forecasted by the City Financial Director and help pay for essential day-to-day services, like staffing for our police and firefighters.

Fair wages, economic activity stimulated by construction and the temporary jobs it requires, and a commitment to community safety make Valero a community partner that benefits us all. I urge you to support this Crude by Rail project as it is a win-win proposition.

Thank you,

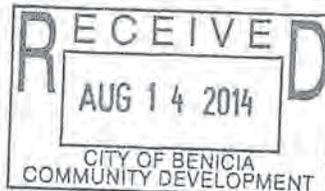
Dan Broadwater
Business Manager IBEW Local 180



OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION No. 3

2540 N. WATNEY WAY, FAIRFIELD, CA 94533 • (707) 429-5008 • FAX (707) 429-0729

Jurisdiction: Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, and the Mid-Pacific Islands



Benicia Planning Commissioners:

The Valero Crude by Rail project has been the subject of controversy since its inception. After attending the Community Meeting on June 30, I do not understand the community skepticism surrounding this project. Valero has gone above and beyond to ensure that this project will have a positive impact on the community both from an economic and safety perspective as well as in terms of long-term environmental effects. The project represents a great opportunity for Benicia.

As a representative for the Operating Engineers, I am also focused on jobs. Not only temporary during the construction, but also the permanent positions created by this project. Putting people to work is a huge benefit for Benicia.

Valero has contracted with several local contractors to build this project. The project will require 250 plus craftspeople to build it. The fact that Valero has chosen local contractors means that your neighbors and folks from surrounding communities will be the ones performing the work and bringing home a paycheck.

New and improved rail cars are built in America to transport North American crude oil, lessening our dependence on foreign oil. American made for Americans, why would anyone not want to support such a plan?

We all have a right and an obligation to be concerned about the changes happening in our community, but we must make decisions about the future of our city based on the facts and an accurate representation of this project.

Benicia residents should take a close look at the Draft EIR, the positive impacts of this project, and the impressive lengths these partners are taking to prevent an incident. I support the Crude by Rail Project - it is a smart choice for Benicia, its residents, the economy and the environment. I urge Benicia residents and City Leaders to get behind this project.

Thank you,

Jim Jacobs
Business Representative - Cranes and Refineries
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3

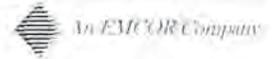
JAJ:wrf
opeiu3-aff-cio



Performance Mechanical, Inc.

General Engineering Contractor

California License No. 475516
Hawaii License No. ABC 30963



August 13, 2014

Brad Kilger, City Manager
Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Dept.
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510



Dear Brad and Amy:

Jobs associated with the Valero Benicia Refinery like the Crude by Rail Project are respected and coveted in the industry because of their high pay and the refinery's emphasis on safety, community, and quality. This project will bring 20 full-time jobs and require approximately 120 skilled craftsman jobs during its construction. As Benicia's largest employer and contributor to the local tax base, Valero's Crude by Rail Project is an investment in, not just the company, but the future of the community.

I can tell you first hand that Valero's highest concerns are the safety of its employees, construction workers, the community, and the quality and reliability of the refinery. PMI has been involved in many projects at the Valero refinery since the year 2000. Each time we are fortunate enough to enter the refinery to do work, we are utilizing the most skilled union craftsmen to install the best technology and material available to ensure safe and reliable improvements to the refinery. The refinery General Manager, John Hill, said it best at a previous public meeting, "You want Valero running this refinery". We at PMI agree because when it comes to quality and integrity, Valero is second to none. Keeping the refinery viable with projects like "Crude by Rail" enables maintenance and continued improvements to be planned and executed while employing our community and making it safer for our environment.

It is no surprise that Valero has invested a great deal of effort into making sure that the community is aware of this project. They have hosted a number of community meetings, provided documents and handouts both in person and online, sent at least half a dozen emails with additional information about how to get involved in the project, created a website with additional information and much more. Valero is dedicated to this community, and they have acted in a manner consistent with this dedication since the moment this project was proposed.

Any way you look at this project, the facts remain the same. This is an infrastructure project that will add another channel for the transportation of crude, thereby allowing Valero the flexibility and competitiveness in a changing marketplace to continue to drive economic activity in the region. This allows the company to continue giving to the community, supporting local businesses, generating new business in the region, and creating additional, good-paying jobs for hard-working local residents.

I urge you to do what is best for us all by supporting this project.

Thank you,

Andrew Hosler
President/CEO

Sacramento Office

6001 Midway Street
Sacramento, CA 95828

(916) 421-4087 Ph, (888) 841-6156 Fax

Corporate Office

701 Willow Pass Road, Suite 2
Pittsburg, CA 94565

(925) 432-4080 Ph, (925) 432-4141 Fax

Los Angeles Office

17925 S. Broadway
Gardena, CA 90248

(310) 327-3205 Ph, (310) 516-0218 Fax

2003

11 Million Man-Hours Without a Lost Time Injury

2014

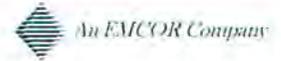




Performance Mechanical, Inc.

General Engineering Contractor

California License No. 475516
Hawaii License No. ABC 30963



September 11th, 2014

Ms. Amy Million
Mr. Brad Kilger
Planning Commissioner



Reference: Support for the Valero Benicia Refinery Crude By Rail Project

Dear Ms. Million and Mr. Kilger and other Planning Commissioners,

As someone who uses their car to commute to work, soccer practices and games for my U-10 girl's team, softball games, the grocery store, and so on, I care about gas prices. As an American, I care about our energy independence and local jobs.

As a Bay Area resident I see it as my responsibility to remind you that Valero is an amazing part of our great community. I have worked in the refinery, off and on, for the last 13 years. I have had an opportunity to dine at the restaurants, and shop in the boutiques that Valero employees and Valero tax dollars help support. I have seen the benefits that Valero's support of the local community brings. I can say, without questions, that Valero has always been a great business partner. Safety, Honesty and Fairness have always been the trademarks of our business relationship. I would imagine that Valero's treatment of the local community is much the same. As Benicia's largest company and employer, Valero has the ability to increase Benicia and the greater Bay Area's use of domestic energy supplies via access by rail. Valero's proposed crude by rail project allows the refinery to refine a larger portion of domestic oil, thereby lessening our dependence on foreign oil, including oil from the Middle East. Domestic oil will boost the American economy and keep jobs, and American dollars, here rather than abroad.

Please vote to approve this important project.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Performance Mechanical, Inc.

Jonathan Hosler

Jonathan Hosler
Project Manager

Sacramento Office
6001 Midway Street
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-4087 Ph, (888) 841-6156 Fax

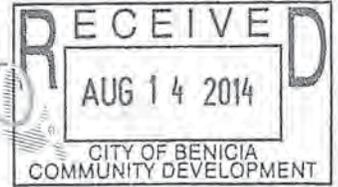
Corporate Office
701 Willow Pass Road, Suite 2
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 432-4080 Ph, (925) 432-4141 Fax

Los Angeles Office
17925 S. Broadway
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 327-3205 Ph, (310) 516-0218 Fax



2003 11 Million Man-Hours Without a Lost Time Injury 2014

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August 14, 2014

Ms. Amy Million
Principal Planner, Community Development Department
City of Benicia, 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Amy:

Benicia is a picture perfect town and we want to keep it that way.

Benicia wouldn't be what it is without a thriving Industrial Park. It makes Benicia an economic oasis. Everybody knows that a shopping mall needs an Anchor store. The same is true of an industrial park. It needs a large well financed, well-managed company that brings a lot of business to town. Our Anchor is Valero. One reason we moved here was the economic viability assured by Valero.

It is in the best interests of Benicia to help Valero maintain its profitability and stay in Benicia rather than moving to Texas as so many California businesses do. Everyone knows what happens when a small town loses its anchor industry.

Valero is not only a very well-managed company with a proven environmental and safety record, but also an outstanding corporate citizen. They have done a lot for this town on a purely voluntary basis.

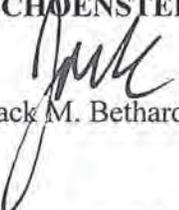
I have reviewed the current crude by rail project. It involves some risk. All human endeavor carries risk. The prudent approach is to balance risk against reward. I believe that the risk in this case is very small and that the rewards that a successful and thriving Valero brings to Benicia are very large.

I'm also convinced that Valero has outstanding environmental, safety, and security programs, as does the Union Pacific Railroad. It is in their best interest to assure the safest equipment and operations possible. After all, they will bear the brunt of costs if they fail to do so.

I hope that the citizens of Benicia will give the Valero project a FAIR hearing based on a REALISTIC risk/benefit analysis.

Yours sincerely,

SCHOENSTEIN & CO.


Jack M. Bethards

JMB:ab

HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO
FACTORY & ARCHIVE



CORPORATE OFFICE AND MAIN PLANT

4001 INDUSTRIAL WAY, BENICIA, CALIFORNIA 94510 - (707)747-5858 - WWW.SCHOENSTEIN.COM

From: Anthony Van Zandt <anthonyvanzandt@comcast.net>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/18/2014 6:52 PM
Subject: Crude by rail



After reading the EIR report I fully support the crude by rail project. I think its a win win. It creates good paying jobs and lowers overall greenhouse gas emissions. Thats a great combo for everyone in the community.

Sincerely,
Anthony Van Zandt
707-652-4884

From: <rio728@aol.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/18/2014 8:19 PM
Subject: Crude by rail



As a local business owner I don't understand the opposition to what Valero is requesting. As I understand the crude by rail will basically have zero impacts on air quality, traffic, public safety, or any other negatives And will have many positive impacts such as job creation and an increase in tax revenue for the city. As a concerned long time resident of Benicia I fully support what Valero is proposing.

Sincerely
Dell (Rio) Holbrook

Sent from my iPad

From: Paul Leimone <paulleimone@gmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/18/2014 9:30 PM
Subject: Crude by mail



Amy,

I wanted to let you know that my wife and I are in support of Valero's plan to rail in crude. I see the possible dangers as very slim and the benefit to the city and citizens is great. Lets not shoot the hand that brings in lots of benefits to the city as is.

Concerned citizen,
Paul and Lois
675 Daffodil Dr.

Amy Million - CBR

From: <erthum@comcast.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/19/2014 7:25 AM
Subject: CBR
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Good morning my name is Andrew Erthum. I am a long time resident and home owner of Benicia, and would not want to live in any other location in California. I would like to show my support to the Crude By Rail Project via this email. I think it is important that you know a little bit about some of the supporters of the project. I am a Building Inspector that specializes in the welding of piping and structural steel, and have worked in all of the Bay Area Refineries. I was one of the inspectors that was scheduled to be on this project before it was delayed. I know there is a lot of controversy over this project, but I feel if Benicia wants to maintain it high quality of standards and all of the support that the refinery provides the Benicia community, it needs to approve this project. Thank you for your time, Andrew Erthum AWS/CWI 96041041

**Amy Million - Support for Valero CBR Project**

From: Sue Kleiman <suzykleiman@gmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <info@beniciaCB...>
Date: 6/19/2014 10:43 AM
Subject: Support for Valero CBR Project

I support this project because there are no good reasons not to.

It will create jobs, make us more independent from foreign oil, generate increased tax revenue for the city. It will decrease Greenhouse gas emissions and complies with safety and noise issues. It will make producing gas more economically efficient which may go towards lowering the price of gas. We all benefit.

The stronger we are economically, in the city, the state and the country the more options and opportunities are available to us in the future. We can afford to make the place we live better and better for our kids.

There are no perfect answers. Everything comes with risks. But the benefits in my opinion, more than outweighs the risks.

Suzanne Kleiman
446 Mills Drive
Benicia
748-0202

Amy Million - I support the Valero CBR Project!



From: Desiree La Bar <dlabar@ur.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.ben...
Date: 6/19/2014 2:39 PM
Subject: I support the Valero CBR Project!
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>

Hello,

I am a Benicia resident and I am writing you to express my support of the Valero CBR project. This project will benefit our community in a variety of ways, including most importantly, an overall net decrease in Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The project will also help ensure Valero's viability as a source of jobs and economic activity for us here in Benicia, Solano County and statewide, where this industry directly or indirectly employs more than 300,000 people.

The Environmental Impact Review process found that the project will not adversely impact the environment. In addition, it complies with all California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

Valero Benicia is a responsible company and a good neighbor. They are committed to safety and to the community. Please take the necessary steps to approve this project, so that our community can start to benefit from the project's positive impacts.

The Valero CBR project is good for our economy and good for our air.

Please join me in advocating for the swift approval of the CBR project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Desiree La Bar

Amy Million - Valero Crude by Rail Project

From: Dale Cross <dkcross54321@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.ben...
Date: 6/24/2014 9:51 AM
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail Project
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



To: Brad Kilger, City Manager
Amy Million, Planning Department

Dear Mr Kilger and Ms Million

I am a Benicia resident and have lived and worked in Benicia for the past 45 years. My children and grandchildren were raised here and have attended Benicia schools. We greatly enjoy the small-town, family-friendly atmosphere of Benicia. We enjoy the City Parks, Recreational areas, Water front, Public Library, Public Schools and great infrastructure of the City which has been made possible in large part by the tremendous tax base and philanthropic efforts of Valero. I am also the Director of a local Camp and Mentoring program for Foster Kids which Valero has generously supported for the past 10 years. All Benicia citizens have benefited directly and indirectly from the great financial support, tax base and philanthropic generosity of Valero.

After reading the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), I support the Valero Crude by Rail Project.

The report clearly indicates that the Crude by Rail Project:

1. Will provide a net decrease in Greenhouse Gas emissions,
2. Will result in no significant Environmental Quality impact for Benicia and California including refinery emissions, rail safety, noise and traffic,
3. Will significantly boost the local and regional economy by
 - creating 20 full-time, good paying jobs and 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction
 - generating millions in taxes, wages and economic benefits,
- 4) Will reduce the US dependence on foreign oil.

Valero is working to ensure they stay competitive in this commodity market while at the same time creating as little impact to Benicia residents and businesses as possible. Valero's Benicia Refinery is constantly monitored by multiple government agencies including the Bay Area Air Quality Management and is required to meet or exceed criteria set forth by these numerous agencies.

With the Valero Benicia Refinery being one of most advanced refineries in the nation, and having a commendable safety record, this project will allow them to stay competitive and continue doing what the refinery was designed to do: be one of the safest and most environmentally friendly refiners of crude oil in the US.

I urge your support for the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

Thank you,

Dale Cross

Benicia Resident

Amy Million - Fwd: Crude by Rail

From: Brad Kilger
To: Amy Million
Date: 6/24/2014 4:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: Crude by Rail



>>> Paul Leimone <paulleimone@gmail.com> 6/19/2014 8:45 PM >>>

My wife and I have been residents of Benicia for 22 years and fully support crude by rail. I do not see the risk of transporting crude by rail and more dangerous than propane or other hazardous materials. We need to support industries that provide jobs and income for our city.

Thank you,
Paul and Lois Leimone
675 Daffodil Dr.

Amy Million - Valero Crude by Rail DEIR

From: <jckons@comcast.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/24/2014 4:11 PM
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail DEIR
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Ms. Million and Mr. Kilger,

My family and I have been Benicia residents for the past 8 1/2 years. While I am not employed by Valero, I have been involved in the refining industry for over 27 years and have had the opportunity to work and visit many of the refineries throughout the Western United States and Canada.

I would first like to commend the city on the thoroughness of the DEIR. The areas covered should be of concern to all Benicia residents.

Secondly, I would like to say that I support the Valero Crude by Rail project for many reasons. I believe that the Valero Benicia Refinery does more than put a priority on safety. The expectation is that safety for all of their employees and contractors is a way of life. I also believe that Valero would like to continue to do business in our community for a long time. My observations and belief are that Valero sets and expectation that the work they perform has less than significant or no impact on our environment and natural resources.

Over the past several years I have had the opportunity to travel to North Dakota on numerous occasions. The economic impact of the oil production from the Bakken fields is amazing. I truly believe that the impact from the Bakken and other shale oil fields has kept energy prices in North America at the level where businesses that were driven overseas due to advantaged labor costs are now returning to the US because of our lower energy costs. In order to keep responsible businesses in Benicia, they need to be able to compete with other locations, both in California and beyond. I believe that allowing a responsible business like Valero access to price advantaged supplies of crude oil by rail is a smart long term decision for our city.

Thanks for attention in this matter,

Jim Kons
McCall Dr.

Amy Million - Support For Valero's Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project

From: "Charles M Graham" <charlesgraham08@comcast.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 6/29/2014 6:18 PM
Subject: Support For Valero's Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Dear Sir/Madame,

As a resident of Benicia I wish to express my support for the Valero Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project (Project). Valero makes a significant financial contribution and shows great support for the City of Benicia. The success of Valero is very important to our community and we need to support this vital project. This project not only creates good jobs it makes good business sense for Valero which in turn makes sense for Benicia. The success of the Valero refinery in Benicia has a direct impact on the success of Benicia as a financially stable City that is a great place to live! Valero is our partner and we need to support this project!

Regards,

Charles M Graham
678 Addison Ct
Benicia, CA 94510
(H) 707-297-6877

Amy Million - In support of Valero's Crude by Rail Project...

From: Cara Bateman <cara_n@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.ben...
Date: 6/30/2014 12:48 PM
Subject: In support of Valero's Crude by Rail Project...
CC: "info@beniciabr.com" <info@beniciabr.com>



To whomever this may concern:

After working in the environmental remediation and regulatory compliance field for the better part of the last 20 years and reading every report, comment, and miscellaneous document posted on the City's Valero Crude by Rail webpage, I fully understand the implications of Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project and I support it 110%. Obviously nothing comes without risk, but I believe that Valero is fully prepared to continue to manage their risk in a manner that has, time and time again, consistently exceeded industry standards.

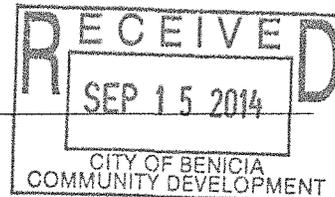
Valero has always been very generous to the City of Benicia and my family and I look forward our partnership continuing to strengthen for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Cara Bateman
Benicia Resident

Amy Million - Re: In Support of Valero CBR DEIR

From: Cara Bateman <cara_n@yahoo.com>
To: "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/11/2014 8:40 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of Valero CBR DEIR
CC: "info@beniciacbr.com" <info@beniciacbr.com>



To Whomever This May Concern:

Please accept the attached file named "Final FRA Data" for the public comment record rather than the attachment named "FRA Data" which accompanied my comment time stamped 6:47 p.m. this evening. A minor editorial correction was required to the previous version. The raw data presented was not affected.

Thank you,

Cara

On Thursday, September 11, 2014 6:47 PM, Cara Bateman <cara_n@yahoo.com> wrote:

After hearing and reading countless public comments (including the comment letter recently submitted by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments) regarding the "Railroad Crude Oil Release Rate Analysis for Route between Roseville, CA and Benicia, CA" being fatally flawed, I set out to review the source data myself. Relevant data tabulated from the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety Analysis can be found in the attached file.

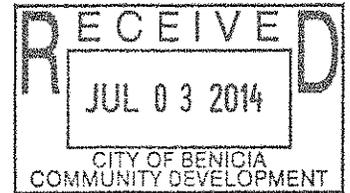
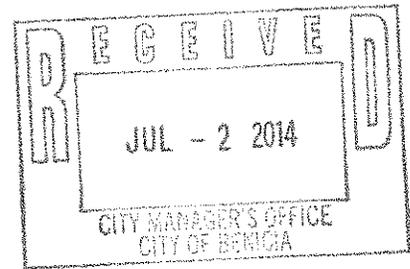
In short, the Release Rate Analysis (RRA) and its numerous references in the DEIR are NOT flawed. As evident in the attached file and as stated in Section 3.3 of the RRA, not only have the railroad industry's hazardous materials accident rates declined in the years since the RRA's rate estimates were developed (i.e., 2005-2009), but the accident rates have been declining for decades. Again, just look at the attached file where the raws facts couldn't be more clear.

Facts are facts. This project isn't perfect, but this community deserves much more than the countless false claims and accusations from the opposition.

Thank you for your time,

Cara Bateman
Benicia Resident

JAMES E. LESSENGER, MD
750 WEST K ST.
BENICIA, CA 94510
707.751.0289
FAX: 707.751.0857
AGBOOK@LESSENGER.NET



June 30, 2014

City Council and Economic Development Commission
City of Benicia, California

Hand delivered

Re: Valero Crude by Rail Project

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

This letter is written in support of the proposed Valero Refinery crude by rail (CBR) project.

I have a unique perspective on the issue for two reasons:

1. I am a board certified Occupational and Environmental Medicine physician. Having researched, written, and taught in the field, I have studied many industries in detail, including railroads and oil refineries. Therefore I have first-hand knowledge of both industries.

2. I have done a lot of research and writing on the former Benicia Arsenal and the conversion of the Arsenal into a three thousand acre industrial park.

I have six reasons for supporting the CBR project. They are as follows:

1. The project lies in the middle of a three thousand acre industrial park.

The proposed project is surrounded by a buffer area of industries and vacant land. The rail lines skirt the city before crossing the Carquenez straits to the south or the rim of the Suisun Marsh to the Northeast.

The land is in an industrial park. When the park was established in 1965, the city officials who created it, James Lemos, John Bohn, and Michael Fitzgerald, made a promise to the industries and businesses that occupied it that it would continue to be used for industrial purposes. Facilities to handle oil deliveries and refine them was one of the contemplated uses of the park when it was developed.

When the Arsenal closed and before the refinery came into the industrial park, Benicia was in a state of economic disaster. The refinery changed all of that.

2. Valero owns the property and should be allowed to do what is necessary to improve it and benefit their business.

Property ownership rights are an important aspect of our culture in the United States. The refinery is planning to improve their property so as to increase its efficiency and they should be allowed to do so.

3. The project will not affect the environment.

There will be no change in the through-put of the refinery and no change in the current levels of discharges or production. Discharges of pollutants from transportation will be decreased.

4. The project will be safe.

From my personal knowledge and experience, I know that safety is the primary task of both the refinery and the railroads. I have personally seen that safety is more important than production or profits in both industries. There is a culture of safety in both industries to protect both the workers and the communities they are located in. This culture includes engineering, training, equipment, and procedures designed to enhance safety.

The refinery readily admits that there are risks to what they do. They also describe their job as managing risks to produce a product that we all use. A product that this country is dependent on. Maybe someday that dependency will change, but not in the near future and certainly it won't be changed by limiting the refinery's ability to bring in crude oil by rail. It is through the culture of safety that these industries manage risk.

In addition to safety mechanisms, the refinery and railroad have sophisticated disaster response teams that in the past have been used to assist the community fire department.

Highly volatile and dangerous materials have been carried on the rails through Benicia and across the bridge to Martinez and beyond for over a century. The Union Pacific tracks that will be used are "Class A" and must carry anything that a shipper wants to ship. They ship tons of material each day without mishap.

There are risks to everything that is done by every person on every day. To draw a comparison: Every year in this country there are children who are abused by teachers, but that is not a reason to stop sending children to schools. It is, however, a reason to improve the culture of safety in our schools.

A culture of safety is what Valero and Union Pacific have done to make the transportation and refining of products safer.

5. The CBR project makes economic sense for Benicia and for the nation.

The CBR project will provide to the Valero refinery more versatility in what types of crude it can purchase and more negotiating power in the purchase price. This means a stronger company. The refinery will hire more workers on both a temporary and permanent basis and will be more competitive in the fuels markets. The improvement in competitiveness and increased profits means that the largest employer and tax payer in the city will remain in the city.

On a national basis, the CBR project is another step in oil independence for America. By purchasing oil from fields in the United States, Valero will decrease dependence on foreign oil and decrease the balance-of-payments problem our country faces. The decrease on foreign oil will decrease our involvement in Middle Eastern politics.

6. The Valero refinery has been a good friend to Benicia.

The refinery employees are engaged in community service projects. The refinery management is very liberal with donations to non-profit organizations throughout the city and area. The refinery employees, management and owners don't deserve the criticism leveled at them.

In summary, I recommend a yes vote for the Valero crude by rail project.

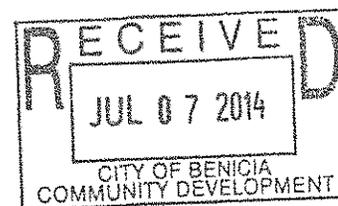
Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Lessenger, MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James E. Lessenger, MD

Amy Million - I Support Valero Crude by Rail

From: Nicholas Piano <nick@allamericanelevator.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/3/2014 12:46 PM
Subject: I Support Valero Crude by Rail
CC: <info@beniciabr.com>



I support the expansion of Valeros deliveries of crude by rail. I do not support members of a city government that attempt to stifle a business that has provided so much to our community.

Beside the taxes that Valero pays to The City of Benicia, and the jobs they provide to our community they do many other things "behind the scenes" to support our community. Our daughter was tutored at the middle school, at no charge, by Valero employees who are organized and staffed by Valero. Valero donated over 500k to community groups including The Benicia Education Foundation, and Reach Out Benicia. Valero helped in the launch of the 2-1-1 program to connect residents to community services. Valero donates to the local food banks, blood drives, donates over 15,000 hours toward community service, adopted 45 adults and 81 children during the holidays to provide food, gifts, and other items.

What other business in Benicia provides so much? Can the City replace these services if Valero vanished, or reduced their services tomorrow? Can the City make up for the 25% deficit of the general fund? Can the City make up for the 13.7M given to area charities?

What would happen if Valero left, or scaled back its operations? We can look to the neighbors on our west for a good example of that....Personally, I like the wild west mentality of Vallejo since big industry disappeared, or was denied entry by their city government. Will I make it home alive? How many gun shots will I hear tonight? Will my kids make it home safe? Will a bankrupt city government and lack of emergency services mean the police or fire department will make it to me in time to save my life? Will my house drop 80% in value because I am surrounded by homeless squatters? All of the above scenarios are life experiences that Benicians currently miss out on, and I have to tell you they don't know what they are missing! Where's the excitement in knowing our city is well funded, and emergency responders are right around the corner? It really doesn't promote a sense of independence and self reliance for our residents.

All sarcasm aside, Valero is a good community member, and we are lucky to have them. Some people will just never recognize this until it's too late, and then they will be the first people complaining about the lack of revenue and city services. Our city should thank Valero, and be supportive in their future endeavors.

Thank You,

Nicholas Piano
 All American Elevator Company, Inc.

Main: 1-(877) 653-5123
 Cell: (510) 773-8043
 Fax: (707) 863-7368
 E-mail: Nick@AllAmericanElevator.com

Web: www.AllAmericanElevator.com

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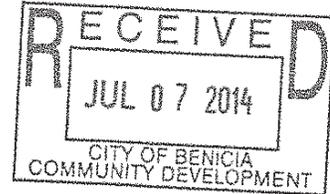
From: Paul Modjesky <modjesky@gmail.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/4/2014 9:36 AM
Subject: Support for crude by rail

I wanted to take a moment to let you know how I feel about Valero and its crude by rail project.

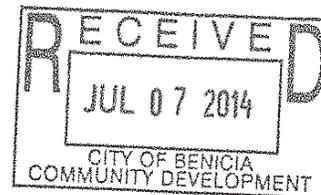
I support more local jobs.
I support more local construction projects.
I support less foreign oil by refining American oil.

I support the crude by rail project!

Paul



From: George <sacsdogs@sbcglobal.net>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
CC: "info@beniciacbr.com" <info@beniciacbr.com>
Date: 7/3/2014 1:44 PM
Subject: Valero's crude by rail project



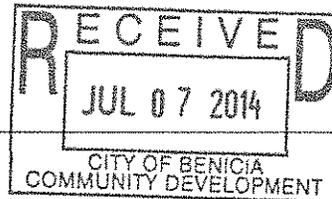
I reside at 374 McAllister Drive, less than a mile from the refinery. After reviewing the environmental impact report, I am satisfied that Valero can successfully implement this project and continue to be an asset to our community. I am particularly impressed with the reduction in tanker deliveries and the reduction in pollution globally associated with the long haul from the Middle East to Benicia.

Thank you for considering my endorsement when you provide your recommendation.

George Maichel
707.315.0289

Amy Million - Valero CBR Project

From: Errol Dely <ebdely@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/4/2014 4:59 PM
Subject: Valero CBR Project
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Dear Amy and Brad,

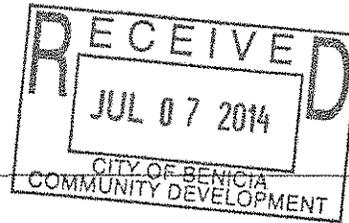
My wife and I strongly support the Valero Crude-by-Rail Project as it will reduce emissions in Benicia and the surrounding area.

Best regards,

Errol Dely

Amy Million - Fwd: Valero Crude by Rail DEIR

From: Brad Kilger
To: Amy Million
Date: 7/5/2014 11:34 AM
Subject: Fwd: Valero Crude by Rail DEIR



>>> David Macdonald <dmmacdonald@att.net> 7/5/2014 11:14 AM >>>
 1404485023644_47983 class=yiv9498597293yui_3_16_0_1_1404485023644_47959 style="FONT-SIZE: 10pt; FONT-FAMILY: bookman old style, new york, times, serif; COLOR: #000; BACKGROUND-COLOR: #fff">Mr. Kilger,

First, I would like to state I have no ties to Valero. I did work for a major competitor as a refinery equipment inspector and design engineer for 34 years (currently retired). I have a lot of knowledge and experience of oil refinery operations, operating equipment, wharf facilities, plant maintenance, and plant upgrade projects. I executed many ground floor environmental projects for my employer in the 1980's. I can tell you that California oil refineries are subject to the strictest environmental standards in the world, and they also rank world class in energy efficiency.

This project is a win for the environment, Valero, the City of Benicia, and America by refining domestic crude oil vs. foreign. The risks of this project are low to the point of being remote. The opponents to this project are acting hysterical, and they obviously have no concept of the risks of crude oil supplied by ship or the multitude of risks of running a large refinery which dwarf the risks of rail car shipment.

What the opponents of this project really represent is a larger anti-fossil fuel agenda coupled with NIBY. I find it odd that these opponents chose to move into a refinery town when they seem so anxious and concerned about the risks and pollution. They share the same attitude of those people who move next door to an airport and then have the audacity to complain about the noise and the pollution. Oddly, these anti-fossil fuel activists fail to grasp how their high standard of living is entirely based on fossil fuel consumption. Something odd happens when a society obtains affluence, it starts killing the geese that lay the golden eggs.

The key to this project are to mitigate the risks, however small. No technology developed by man is perfect, so risks have to be identified, quantified, and mitigated. That includes rail infrastructure upgrades, tank car design upgrades, and spill response plans. All of these mitigation's are well understood and it is a simple matter of having an implementation plan and schedule.

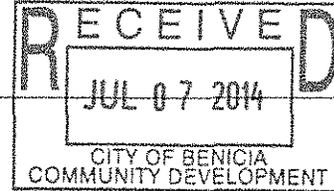
I fully support this project as in the best interests of the City of Benicia. Let us not kill the goose that lays the golden egg for our city.

Sincerely,

David Macdonald
 798 Hall Court
 Benicia

Amy Million - Crude by Rail in Benicia

From: Marty Gustafson <gustafmarty@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/7/2014 10:13 AM
Subject: Crude by Rail in Benicia
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



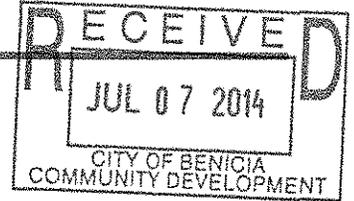
Ms. Million and Mr. Kilger

I've been resident of Benicia for 13 years, much of which has been under Valero's ownership and management of our local refinery. I'm not a petroleum or rail safety expert so I am a layperson, but I do know people who work in the local refineries and have learned that using cleaner easier to refine raw product is essential to maintaining a profitable operation. I also know safety is a huge priority for their operations as it also is essential to their profitability. I am quite confident that Valero's management would not pursue any endeavor without the up-most concern and scrutiny for the safety of our community and it's employees. In my opinion Valero has earned this opportunity for its record as being a responsible and safe operator here in Benicia since taking ownership of the refinery.

Lastly, we need to provide assurance that the refinery can stay competitive and sustain its presence here in Benicia to keep the middle class jobs and the economies that spawn from them. Our middle class is disappearing in our country and we as a nation should be very concerned about that. We have some balance in Benicia largely due to Valero as an operator and employer of middle class jobs in our community, which is one of the reasons that make Benicia such a great place to live and raise families. So my vote is for sustaining a middle class in our community and am ok with Valero's pursuits for crude by rail.

Marty Gustafson
Benicia Resident

Amy Million - Stop Crude Oil



From: "Sansone, Jelayn" <Jsansone@csum.edu>
To: "Amy.Million@ci.benicia.ca.us" <Amy.Million@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/7/2014 2:36 PM
Subject: Stop Crude Oil
CC: "Len Sansone (lsansone@geiconsultants.com)" <lsansone@geiconsultants.com>

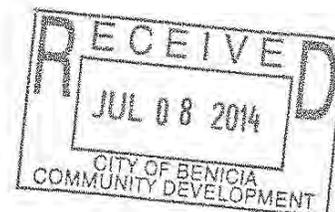
Hi Amy,

I'm a resident in Benicia and am very concerned about crude oil impacts in our city. I would hopefully like to see that this project will not go to fruition. Thanks for your time.

Jelayn Sansone

CSU California Maritime Academy
GL Accountant II
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590
Tel: 707-654-1280
Fax: 707-654-1042
Email: jsansone@csum.edu

From: monique <moniqueboyer@yahoo.com>
To: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>, Amy Million <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, Brad Kilger <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
CC: Peter O'Farrell <pofarrell323@gmail.com>
Date: 7/7/2014 8:23 PM
Subject: Comments in Support of Valero Expansion



Hello City of Benicia Staff,

I would like to express my support for the Valero crude by rail expansion project. Valero provides hundreds of jobs and monetary support to our community. They do so because they are able to maintain a profitable business in our community. By approving the project, Valero will be able to move product more efficiently. I believe that rail is a much safer means to move oil than by truck. Valero will continue to need to move crude oil whether or not we allow the rail project to go through. Wouldn't we rather the oil take safe passage on rail lines than on trucks which cause greater pollution and congestion on our roads? If we do not allow Valero to move forward with the project, Valero could choose to utilize another plant to process the oil. Instead of growing industry in Benicia, we could lose jobs and tax dollars to another community that allows Valero to move their product more efficiently. We must allow Valero to continue to operate in an efficient and progressive way. Valero is a key job provider and provides millions of dollars to our community. We can not afford to make it difficult for industry to do business in our town.

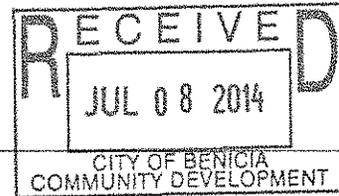
Please feel free to share my comments as needed.

Best regards,
Monique Boyer, MBA, SPHR
Regional Human Resources Manager
Lee Enterprises
Benicia Citizen and Home Owner

Sent from my iPad

Amy Million

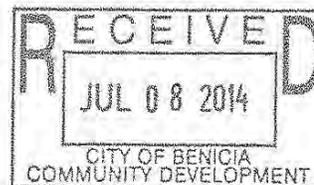
From: Sam & Mary Hammonds <s.m.hammonds@att.net>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/7/2014 8:57 PM



I am not able to attend the Planning Commission Mtg on July 10, but I want to express my support for approval of the Valero Crude By Rail project. It is good locally and good for the state and good for the nation. Valero has adequately addressed the safety issues and the slight risk involved is far over-shadowed by the advantages for this project. Please approve it now!

Sam and Mary Hammonds
902 Bradford Way
Benicia, CA

From: Peter <pofarrell323@gmail.com>
To: monique <moniqueboyer@yahoo.com>
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>, Amy Million <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, Brad Kilger <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/7/2014 9:01 PM
Subject: Re: Comments in Support of Valero Expansion



What great words , I agree.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 7, 2014, at 8:23 PM, monique <moniqueboyer@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> Hello City of Benicia Staff,

>

> I would like to express my support for the Valero crude by rail expansion project. Valero provides hundreds of jobs and monetary support to our community. They do so because they are able to maintain a profitable business in our community. By approving the project, Valero will be able to move product more efficiently. I believe that rail is a much safer means to move oil than by truck. Valero will continue to need to move crude oil whether or not we allow the rail project to go through. Wouldn't we rather the oil take safe passage on rail lines than on trucks which cause greater pollution and congestion on our roads? If we do not allow Valero to move forward with the project, Valero could choose to utilize another plant to process the oil. Instead of growing industry in Benicia, we could lose jobs and tax dollars to another community that allows Valero to move their product more efficiently. We must allow Valero to continue to operate in an efficient and progressive way. Valero is a key job provider and provides millions of dollars to our community. We can not afford to make it difficult for industry to do business in our town.

>

> Please feel free to share my comments as needed.

>

> Best regards,

> Monique Boyer, MBA, SPHR

> Regional Human Resources Manager

> Lee Enterprises

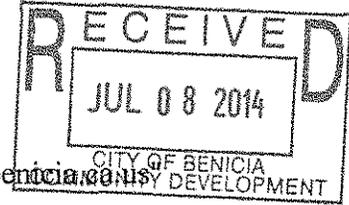
> Benicia Citizen and Home Owner

>

> Sent from my iPad

Amy Million - Valero CBR Project

From: "Aguilera, Alfonso" <Alfonso.Aguilera@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/8/2014 7:32 AM
Subject: Valero CBR Project
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>



To whom it may concern:

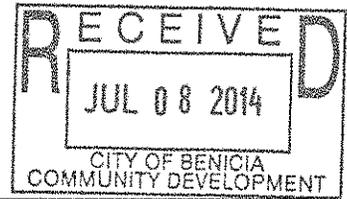
I've been an employee of the Benicia Refinery for about 22 years and have previous experience working for Chevron and Esso Refineries as well, and I can tell you, honestly, that the Valero safety culture is as good (if not better) as the one practiced by bigger corporations. The Benicia Crude by Rail Project, if approved, will be performed with the same level of safety and professionalism this Refinery has Benicia residents accustomed to.

This project will provide the City of Benicia with lots of benefits, including the creation of new jobs resulting on more revenue. As an employee and resident of this beautiful City I fully support the CBR Project and hope this dream will materialize soon to benefit everyone.

Thanks a lot.
Al Aguilera
Valero Refinery Employee.

Amy Million

From: "Frank, David" <David.Frank@Valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/8/2014 8:36 AM
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



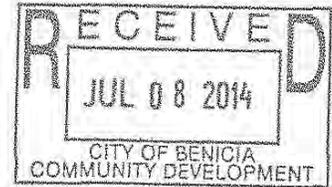
I support Valero's Crude By Rail project...

Thanks,
Dave Frank

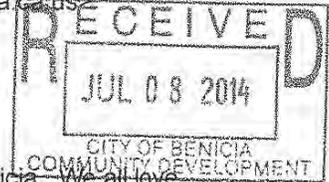
From: Don Stock <purduedon80@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>
Date: 7/8/2014 9:20 AM
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail

As a Benicia resident for 25 years and raising my family here I believe it is important that the city support this project. The EIR supports the project from an environmental and safety stand point. Valero is one of the safest places to work and there is no reason to think this project would be any different. I believe over 75 % of Benicians support Valero and this project. Valero is a good neighbor.

Sent from my iPad



From: Linda Yarbrough <eyarbrough@att.net>
To: Brad Kilger <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, A Million <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/8/2014 9:31 AM
Subject: Support the Valero Crude By Rail Project



To: Benicia City Planning Commissioners

I have lived in Benicia for 42 years. I have 2 sons and 4 grand-children that live in Benicia. We all love and enjoy our town.

I have attended the Valero public information meetings for the CBR Project. I have also studied the Environmental Impact Report.

I will be out of town on July 10th. However, I would like to express my strong support for the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

This Project is very important for the future of Benicia and Valero. Valero and the City have passed all the requirements for the Planning Commission to permit the Project.

Valero is a safety, environmental and operations leader in the petroleum business, with an excellent record in Benicia and at it's other locations. We are fortunate to have Valero operating the largest business in the City and County. Valero provides many of the best jobs in the area, supports many local businesses, is the largest tax payer and gives freely to support many community needs. The Valero Benicia Refinery produces a large percentage of the fuels vital to the local economy and California. This Project is essential for America to utilize domestic energy sources and reduce our dependence on foreign energy.

The City of Benicia and the residents should do all that is reasonable to support Valero and to insure the refinery remains competitive by approving the Project.

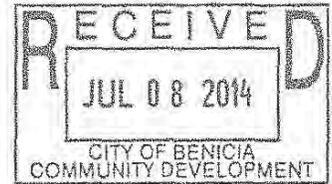
I request your support and vote to approve the Valero CBR Project.

Sincerely,

Ed Yarbrough
375 Saint Augustine Court
Benicia, Ca.

Sent from my iPad

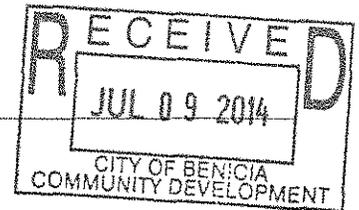
From: <carrol1of5@aol.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/7/2014 6:15 PM
Subject: Valero CBR Project



I live in Benicia and have so for nearly 27 years. I support the CBR. Project, as it is important that oil refineries can continue to do business in California in order to provide jobs and a stable tax basis for our city programs.
Maureen Carroll

Amy Million - Valero CBR Project

From: "Ella Marie Kallios" <kallios_e@robertscompanies.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/8/2014 12:20 PM
Subject: Valero CBR Project



Hello Ms. Million,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Planning Commission Meeting on Thursday evening. Please accept this email as my testimony in support of the Valero CBR project. I am a Benicia resident and I feel very strongly that this project needs to be approved. Valero is a good neighbor, a great employer, and a significant contributor to the city budget.

I received a call recently from a polling company asking my thoughts about a 1 cent sales tax increase to assist Benicia with its budget shortfall. I was perplexed as to how our city can ask us as residents to pay more in taxes when we could potentially be turning our back on a company that pays 25% of the taxes in our city.

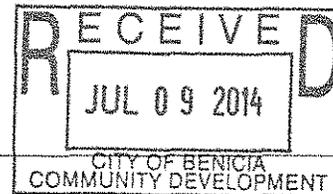
In addition to my fiscal concern I am also concerned that the "potential" dangers of crude by rail have been exaggerated. We all need gasoline and I would prefer to see the products needed to produce this product come to our location by rail rather than by ship or tanker truck.

I served on the Vacaville Planning Commission for three terms and I absolutely appreciate the work and the energy that the Planning Department puts into these types of proposals. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Kind regards,
Ella Marie

Amy Million - Support for Valero's Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project

From: "Lord, Jeffery" <Jeffery.Lord@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/9/2014 1:56 PM
Subject: Support for Valero's Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Amy Million and Brad Kilger,

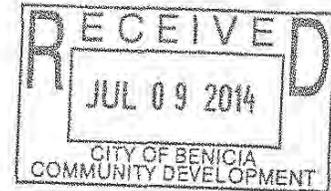
My wife, Maria, and I attended Valero's informational meeting regarding the DEIR on Monday, June 30th with our baby, Nathan.

We were both so impressed with the tremendous amount of work that has been performed to determine if this project is a good idea for the environment and the region. We were also impressed to hear that the project decreases emissions on a global and local level. We also love that the project reduces the risk of having an environmental release, since there is a higher probability that a ship will leak crude oil than a railway car. We are both strong believers in this project and believe it should be implemented without delay.

Thank you,
The Lord Family

Jeffery Lord
Valero Benicia Refinery
Associate Mechanical Engineer
Mech. Reliability - Complex 1
Office: 707-745-7980

From: Gail Stock <dgbstock@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/9/2014 2:23 PM
Subject: Crude by Rail



I am writing to you in support of the crude by rail project. I am a Benicia resident and have been for over 28 years now. During that time I have been impressed with Valero as a good neighbor. I believe that the city of Benicia has done an excellent job in acquiring environmental reports to ensure the safety and air quality of all Benicia residents. I was impressed with the fact that you covered ALL possible impacts to Benicia and thoroughly convinced me with your reports that crude by rail is the way to go in the future for our best interest.

1. The air quality improvement of rail transportation versus freight (by ship) was amazing.
2. The fact that our rail cars would be maned versus the accident that you discussed with rail cars that were completely without drivers was reassuring to me. Also the fact that a tax will be levied on the crude by rail to cover the increased cost to California for improving our tracks and constant inspections to ensure our safety.
3. The training provided by Valero to our firefighters in Benicia was also very reassuring. They convinced me that they are more than capable to take care of any emergencies.
4. Having the crude delivered to a location on the outskirts of our city is favorable to me.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure the safety of all Benicia residents.

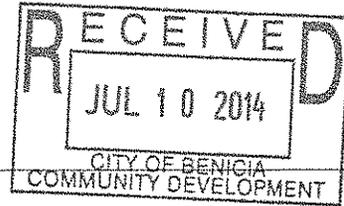
Sincerely,

Gail Stock

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Million - CBR

From: Jack Bethards <jack@schoenstein.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/10/2014 7:37 AM
Subject: CBR



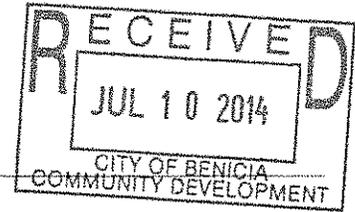
Dear Amy,

I am just writing to affirm my complete support of the Valero CBR program. There is some risk in everything we do. I am convinced that the risk here is very low in comparison to the very high reward to the tax payers of Benicia in keeping Valero competitive.

Jack M. Bethards
President and Tonal Director
Schoenstein & Co.
4001 Industrial Way
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-5858
Fx (707) 747-4771
jack@schoenstein.com

Amy Million - Valero Crude By Rail Infrastructure project

From: "Lam, Tom" <Tom.Lam@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/10/2014 8:22 AM
Subject: Valero Crude By Rail Infrastructure project



Hello Amy,

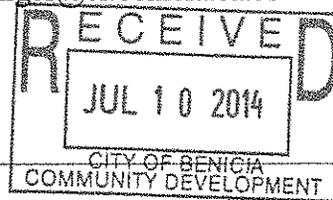
As an employee at the Benicia refinery for the last 25 years, I can attest to the strong safety culture we have here. We work very hard every day to maintain that safety culture and proud to be recognized as one of the safest refineries to work in the state. We are one of the two Valero refineries in the state to be certified and recently re-certified in the Cal-OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Safe practices are what we do, every day. We are also proud to be a good corporate citizen and good supporter of local charitable organizations and local merchants. This infrastructure project is a win-win proposal for the city of Benicia and the local communities, and it will help Valero to continue to be a good corporate citizen, a good employer, and a solid contributor to our local economic development in a very competitive market place.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Tom Lam
Project Manager/Sr. Staff Engineer
Valero Benicia Refinery

Amy Million - Planning Commissioning Meeting

From: "Bowden, Billie" <Billie.Bowden@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/10/2014 10:12 AM
Subject: Planning Commissioning Meeting
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



I know people hate change and some just don't want to change, but they need to look at the benefits it will bring to the people and the City of Benicia. Jobs, generating millions in taxes, wages and economic benefits, reducing dependency on foreign oil. The list goes on and they way outweigh the risks people seem to think it will create. Valero is not willing to jeopardize the people, the city or the refinery itself by wanting to make these improvements and going forward with the Crude by Rail Project. Safety and the environment are only 2 of their main priorities in going forward with this.

People get scared and speak without knowing all the facts. I hope that this meeting and the DEIR will open their eyes and minds to a better future and way by allowing crude by rail to the Valero refinery.

Thank you

Billie Bowden
 Document Control

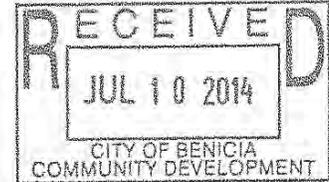
 **Eichleay**
 Valero Benicia Refinery
 3400 E. Second Street
 Benicia, CA.

Direct [707-745-7643](tel:707-745-7643)
 Cell [510-685-7916](tel:510-685-7916)

*****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE*****

The information in this email may be confidential and/or privileged. This email is intended to be reviewed and used only by the individual or organization named above for the explicit purpose of conducting business. If you are not the intended recipient or an authorized representative of the intended recipient, you are here-by notified that any review, dissemination or copying of this email and its attachments, if any, or the information contained herein, is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email and delete this email from your system.

From: Jennifer A Thornton <joyfuljennifer@hotmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>
Date: 7/10/2014 1:59 PM
Subject: Transport by Rail



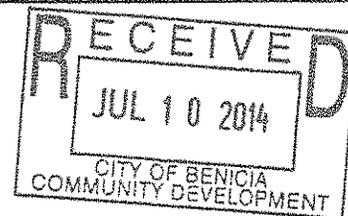
To whom it may concern:

I support the idea of Valero's shipments of crude oil into Benicia via railway rather than/in addition to marine transport. I understand that there are those who are concerned about de-railings. I'm sure Valero management is too. Nobody wants to buy crude oil twice or clean it up even once. I know that local business owners have voiced a request for the suppression of the train whistles that rattle the shelves inside their buildings, but I'm sure that's something that can be worked out.

Jennifer Thornton
Benicia Resident

Amy Million - Re: Valero Crude By Rail Project

From: Jim Minkel <jrminkeliii@gmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/10/2014 3:33 PM
Subject: Re: Valero Crude By Rail Project
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Hello

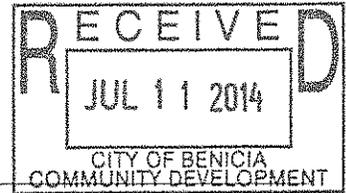
I wanted to voice my feelings on Valero's Crude By Rail Project. As a resident of Benicia for 30 plus years and a Valero employee for the past 11 years, I feel this project is needed for both Benicia and Valero. This project will produce long term jobs for the area and allow Valero to stay competitive in the refining business. Valero is and has been a good neighbor to Benicia and the community at large. The DEIR was long and through process and shows the project will have many benefits to the Bay Area. I feel that the prompt approval of Valero's Crude By Rail project is the right thing to do and will make Benicia a better place to live and work. The same community where my children live and go to school in.

Thank you for your time and prompt approval of Crude By Rail.

Jim Minkel
577 Cooper Dr
Benicia, CA 94510

Amy Million - Valero Crude by Rail Project

From: "Rybarczyk, Thomas" <Tom.Rybarczyk@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/10/2014 4:12 PM
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail Project
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Dear Ms. Million,

I am a Valero employee and I support the CBR project.

It will make the Benicia refinery viable for the long term. It was not that many years ago that Valero was actively seeking a buyer for the refinery. Valero has sold or shut down distressed assets, as they should do, to meet the fiduciary duty for their stockholders.

As the Process Safety Manager at the refinery, I know how important Valero considers safety. It supersedes all other considerations. I have also been involved in reviews here at the refinery on this project and have no concerns with the proposed facilities or their operation.

A little background on me. I have worked for a number of oil companies at refineries all around the US as well as consulting companies to the oil and petrochemical industries. Valero Benicia has a stellar safety record and safety is engrained in everything we do. That is one of the primary reasons I decided to work for Valero and the Benicia refinery specifically.

Regards,

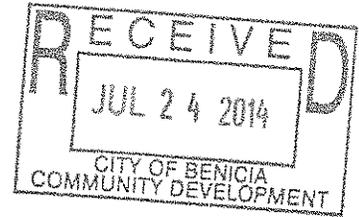
Tom Rybarczyk

PSM Manager
Valero Refining Co.-CA
3400 East Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
ph 707-745-7934
cl 707-373-9587
fx 707-745-7347

833 Clifton Court

Benicia, Ca. 94510

July 24, 2014



Subject: Valero Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project

Benicia Planning Commission
250 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510

Some of our citizens have expressed concerns about this project, having to do with the volatility of some types of petroleum products being brought in, and the use of rail to get it here. These are fair questions, and deserve answers. To begin, many types of petroleum products are volatile, and have always been so. That is the nature of the product. They are being brought in now to refineries by many means, including trains. It is Valero's intent to bring in two more trains of 50 cars each per day, rather than by ship, with no increase in gallons. It is the Refinery's job to safely and efficiently blend and manage its process. Valero does this well, and has done this in our town safely for many years. They want to include a third rail on their property to help make their work even more efficient to serve the customer and better meet competition.

The favorite example used by those opposed to this project, seems to be the terrible accident that took place in Lac Megantic in Canada last year. As we know, an unmanned train got loose, ran down a hill reaching speeds of 60 to 70 miles per hour, derailed and blew up. Tragically, it killed 47 people. However, I am curious about the Canadian tragedy being used so often as an example, in that the circumstances are so unrelated to our Benicia project.

Valero's third rail project will be built on level land on their property, (no hills and no chance for an inadvertent 60-70 miles per hour runaway downhill). The speed limit on their property is ten miles per hour which would probably mean 5,6, or 7 miles per hour much of the time. If a derailment happens at that speed and on level ground, rail cars are going to do exactly what they did do several months ago-they just sat down on the road bed with no rollover or significant damage. As I recall, they were back in business in about half a day. In addition, Valero has committed to buy or lease only the new style upgraded heavily reinforced tank cars (unlike the ones in the Canadian accident), that are a significant improvement.

The draft EIR says that an oil train release accident exceeding 100 gallons (about 6 or 7 average size American cars tank capacity) from Roseville to here, is a probability of once every 111 years! In the Suisun marsh, the factor is once every 262 years! These are probability factors pretty much off the charts! The hauler, the Union Pacific Company, has a long and distinguished record in our countries history.

This project to go by rail rather than ship will also help us get less dependent on foreign oil from some unfriendly and unstable regions in the world. This fact is vital to our country's safety and economic stability. Some of us may recall the 1970s, when the "OPEC" countries almost brought this country to its knees, by deciding to "turn off the spigot". Crude sources now from within our borders, plus Mexico and Canada are far more reliable and controllable than from somewhere half way around the world.

Now, who is this, our long time neighbor Valero Petroleum? They are people just like you and me. They care about this town, they care about doing their jobs responsibly, and they do that. Beyond that, the real owners are the stockholders, many of whom are also people like you and me.

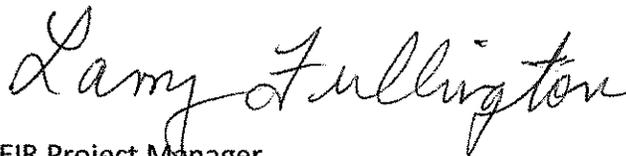
This company has won an especially prestigious safety award not just once, but three times! Other oil companies would love to have just one of those awards.

Let's look at some of the residual benefits that Valero brings to our town:

1. Creating 20 full time good paying jobs. Benicia needs these jobs.
2. 120 skilled craftsman jobs during the construction phase.
3. Generating millions in taxes, wages, and economic benefits.
4. Allowing us to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This is vital!
5. Ensuring the city can continue to provide vital services. As I recall, Valero pays over 20% of our General Fund. If no Valero, we will need to find some other source to help pay for our amenities and other services. We could perhaps reduce them, or pay for them ourselves. (an amount that could truly get your attention).
6. In the last decade, Valero and its employees have donated 13.7 million dollars to local charities. These are good citizens.

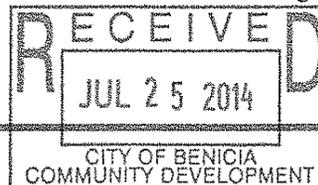
Valero is a responsible, safety oriented company, and we are fortunate to have them as a good corporate neighbor and partner! I urge you to support this project

Sincerely Yours,
Larry Fullington



cc: Ms. Amy Million -DEIR Project Manager
Mr. Brad Kilger – City Manager
Ms. Sue Fisher-Jones, Valero Refining Company

D69-1
cont.



Amy Million - CBR

From: Silvano Preciado <waxpepper@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 7/25/2014 3:07 PM
Subject: CBR
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>, "Preciado Silvano (SIPR)" <waxpepper@yahoo.com>

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a Benicia resident for over 20 years, I would like to express my support for the rail project proposed by Valero. I am not an employee or employed by a company contracted with Valero, but a citizen who views Valero as a responsible and important member of our community.

I urge you to reject the claims of the traveling fear-mongers (CBE and others) who have nothing to lose and spend their efforts opposing any progress all around the Bay Area. I also encourage our city leaders not to take the existence of Valero for granted. If this small change is what is needed to keep them as a long-term community asset, all I ask is that they do it a responsible manner as they have demonstrated over their years of operation.

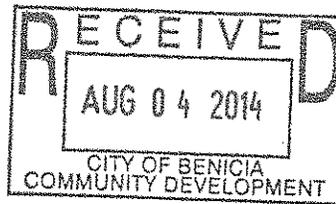
Refinery closures are not as far-fetched as we may think. In the past several years, there have been several refineries shut down due to profit margins, with the most recent here in southern California, and it would be a shameful loss to the community if that happened here.

I would like to make a final comment regarding concerns of rail switches: when I first heard of this project, I had a mental picture of rail cars being moved in and out all day and night. I attended one of the community meetings and what I understood from that meeting is there would be two rail switches a day of only 50 rail cars. I don't understand why this would be an issue for an industrial area zoned for this activity.

Thank you for your attention.

Silvano Preciado, Benicia Resident

Benicia Planning Commission



8/4/14

I believe the draft EIR finds that the Valero Refinery project meets all the requirements to proceed with the current project being considered. Valero is not requesting any changes in the environmental or volume outputs allowable under the permits by the many agencies that oversee the refinery operations.

The rail road has updated the tracks recently with heavy duty rails throughout the industrial park as well as installing new switching to allow more efficient movement in and out of the site.

Valero needs to have the ability to take advantage of North American crude to remain competitive and help the U.S. become energy independent.

Valero is a major factor in making Benicia the place we as citizens and businesses enjoy. 25 percent of the City General Fund, the many philanthropic donations, the jobs supported, generosity and time committed by their employees make them an extremely valuable asset to keep the city prosperous.

I would encourage the Planning Commission to vote to allow this project to go forward.

Jack Bell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Bell".

SUBA MFG INC



SUBA MFG., INC.
921 Bayshore Road
Benicia, CA 94510 (707) 745-0358
C-67

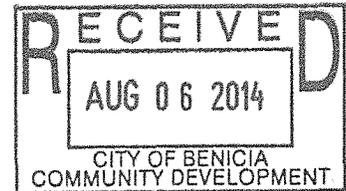
FAX #(707) 745-2985

Amy Million - Valero Crude By Rail Project

From: JAMES MINKEL <j.minkel@att.net>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 8/6/2014 12:13 PM
Subject: Valero Crude By Rail Project

For the Benicia Planning Commission:

James R. Minkel
134 Carlisle Way
Benicia, CA 94510-1609
tel (707) 746-7213



August 6, 2014

City of Benicia
Planning Commission
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Subject: Letter in Support of Valero Crude By Rail Project

Dear Planning Commission Members,

My family and I have lived here on Carlisle Way overlooking the Valero refinery property for 37 years.

Crude by Rail is going to happen, if not at Valero, at other California refineries. The trains will pass through Benicia in any event, but without Valero's CBR Project Benicia will not receive any benefit. Why should Valero be denied the opportunity to remain competitive?

Valero Refining has consistently demonstrated that they are a safety-conscious operator in our community.

D79-1

Please support the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

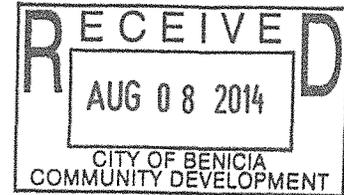
Sincerely,

/S/ James R. Minkel

James Minkel
134 Carlisle Way
Benicia, CA 94510-1609
tel 707.746.7213
email j.minkel@att.net

Amy Million - Crude by Rail project

From: "Sandy" <nanclan1@att.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 8/8/2014 2:50 PM
Subject: Crude by Rail project
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Dear Planning Commissioners,

This letter is to express my support for the Valero Crude by Rail Project. The Valero refinery has always been a great neighbor, consistently considering safety, community needs, energy needs, and environmental health.

I believe, from my research, that the DEIR found this project to have "no significant impact" on the environment but a long-term improvement on Benicia's air quality. I've also heard the CBR project will reduce marine transport of oil which will protect our oceans, reducing the possibility of spills on the water, which are extremely difficult and expensive to mitigate. I am aware of the opposition's safety concerns, which appear to be with non-renewable energy and the rail transport system, and they should deal with those specifically, as the denial of the CBR project will not change either of these. I feel confident in the safety of the project's construction and operation since Valero has continually exceeded safety standards in the past.

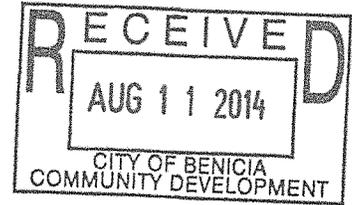
This project is occurring on Valero's land and we should allow them the ability to stay competitive in the oil industry while potentially revitalizing our Industrial Park area. Please do not delay the start of this project any longer as every day matters for Valero and Benicia. This is good for our economy and good for our people, and it is important for us to keep our businesses and industries thriving and economically healthy.

Thank you,

David A. Nancarrow
527 Poppy Circle
Benicia, CA

Amy Million - letter of support for Valero Crude by rail project..

From: Michael Wilkinson <mnwilkinson@gmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 8/11/2014 4:41 PM
Subject: letter of support for Valero Crude by rail project..
CC: Benicia CBR <info@beniciaCBR.com>
Attachments: Draft CBR Support Letter (1).docx



attached is a letter of support for the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I will keep my comments brief.

I have lived in Benicia since the mid 80's. I want to express my support for Valero's Crude by Rail Project. You have all heard the results of the draft Environmental Impact Report, where air emissions will be reduced, and process emissions will not be increased, jobs will be created, the refining process will not change and the other benefits that will accrue as this project moves forward.

At the July 10 Planning Commission meeting many people spoke about the need to invest in solar and other natural energy sources to limit our dependence on crude. These are important goals, and we need to continue to find ways to use solar and other energy sources to meet our needs in the future. However-right now, today, we need to concentrate on those projects that will have the most bang for the buck. Crude by rail is one of those projects.

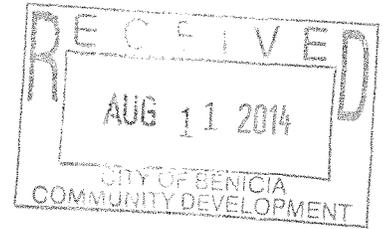
Concerns have been raised about the efficient and safe transportation by rail of crude oil. These concerns are valid. I know of no one that wants an accident. Not Valero, Not the Union Pacific Railroad, not the City of Benicia, not the County of Solano, the State of California, The Federal Government, no one. ALL parties need to work together to make sure that any risks associated with the shipment of crude by rail are minimized or eliminated to the extent possible. Work on the next gen DOT-112 tank cars is progressing. The DOT has instituted a NPRM (notice of proposed rulemaking) to improve the safety of the current DOT-111 cars. Once the DOT issues new rules, the carbuilders can begin to build newer, stronger, safer cars that will withstand greater impacts, and we can begin the phase out of the DOT-111 tank cars.

Valero is committed to our community. Valero has demonstrated this commitment through years of donations to charities and support of and participation in various city events. I firmly believe that Valero should be allowed to move forward with this project.

Thank you,

Jon Youmans
705 East 6th Street
Benicia, CA 94510

July 31st, 2014



Amy Million
Brad Kilger
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

To the Benicia City Planning Commission:

I have lived in Benicia since New Years day 1983 and I am a proud Benicia resident, a homeowner and a small business owner. My business Gates Roofing has been operating since June of 1989 and we have been involved as a partner in the Benicia community.

The Valero refinery makes a tremendous effort to ensure that all employees are properly trained to handle emergencies and boasts a strong track record of safety. The Benicia Fire department and the Valero Fire Chief have also spoken extensively about their emergency response plan, leading me to believe that Valero has worked tremendously hard to ensure they always to prioritize the safety of this community.

Valero has proven their capabilities by responding to emergencies throughout the state and by maintaining the refinery's position as one of the safest refineries in the nation. Benicia and Valero have taken extensive prevention measures to ensure that the likelihood of an incident is extremely slim. They have implemented stringent safety standards and always put the safety of the community first. They continually invest in training and are prepared to act immediately and effectively in any emergency situation.

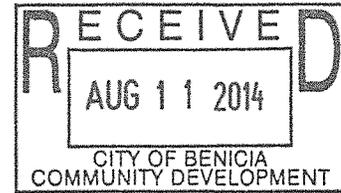
The fact is that this method of transporting crude is safer and better for the environment than current methods. Furthermore, this project allows Valero to stay competitive and continue to give back to our community. I see no reason why we should stand in the way of changes that make Valero more competitive and Benicia safer and stronger.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon H. Youmans". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jon Youmans
Owner, Gates Roofing

Herbert J. Forthuber
1477 W. 2nd St.
Benicia, CA



August 10, 2104

To the Benicia Planning Commission:

As a Benicia resident since 1990 and a local business manager in Benicia, I have been following the Valero crude by rail project with extensive interest. This project is worthy of support from multiple perspectives. First, as the EIR report states, "Compared to the Project, the No Project alternative would result in higher emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases within California. Global greenhouse gas emissions would be higher with the No Project alternative than with the Project".

One of the main interests of Benicia, as evidenced by the activities of the Sustainability Committee, is to reduce the total amounts of greenhouse gases produced in Benicia. As the manager of Alfred Conhagen, Inc. of California (located in the Industrial Park), we received a BRIP grant for installing energy efficient lighting in an effort to reduce our total power consumption and reduce our carbon footprint. This was a highly successful project, with reductions of over 31% in our carbon footprint. Valero has already improved the environment by drastically decreasing air emissions in the past 3 years. The Crude by Rail Project will allow them to continue to decrease air emissions. I feel strongly that the crude by rail will have a positive impact on the reduction of the total greenhouse gasses generated, thus is worthy of support by the Planning Commission.

Valero has shown a major commitment to the local community through millions of dollars in taxes paid, support of local charities, and has created high quality jobs for Benicia residents. The refinery has either created or supports 3,900 jobs in the region as a result of their operations. This positive economic impact on Benicia has allowed for multiple excellent restaurants and retail shops in downtown Benicia. Many of the local businesses in the Industrial Park rely heavily on the support work provided to the Valero Refinery. Speaking as a business manager, Valero is our largest customer. Conhagen supports 25 good jobs in Benicia. Without Valero, we do not know if we could continue to be a viable business in Benicia.

We must not take for granted that Valero will keep this refinery open for an indefinite period if the economics do not support keeping the refinery operating on a profitable basis. History has shown that Valero owned non-profitable refineries have been shut down. Examples are both the Aruba and Delaware City refineries. The economic impact of these closures on the local towns where the refineries are located was severe. Following is a quote from 2009 when the Delaware City Refinery closed:

"It was devastating when we heard that Valero was going to close the doors," says Delaware Governor Jack Markell (D). "I went in shortly thereafter and talked to the workers, and honestly I walked in, I was sick to my stomach." The news stunned workers at the site like Ken Gomeringer. "It was a shock and it was a change in mindset, a lot of

us that had been here for a while, never thought we'd see the day that the refinery would be shut down."

I would not want to see the impact on the City of Benicia if the refinery closed or was sold. One only needs to look at an example close at hand on the impact the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard had on Vallejo. We have no idea on what type of corporate citizen we would see under new company ownership if the refinery were sold.

The Valero Refinery is a member of the Benicia community. Valero employees have the same goals we all have, which is providing for their families and trying to give their children the best lives possible. The success of the Benicia economy and safety of the individuals who reside here are as important to Valero as they are to any member of the Benicia community.

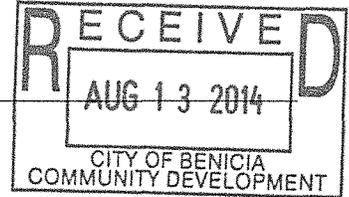
They have gone out of their way to show they take the concerns of the community seriously. The Environmental Impact Report proves that this project will reduce air emissions and create opportunities for Benicia. Continuing to stand in the way of this project is a disservice to Benicia.

Thank you,

Herbert J. Forthuber

Amy Million - Valero CBR

From: <waxpepper@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 8/12/2014 9:49 PM
Subject: Valero CBR
CC: "info@beniciaCBR.com" <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Dear Members of the Benicia Planning Commission,

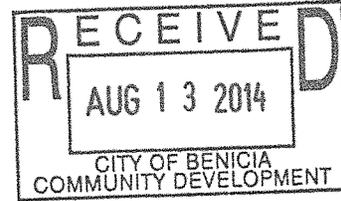
I am a Benicia resident and support Valero's crude by rail project and many of my neighbors do as well. Valero has operated safely and I encourage you to support this important project. This represents a long term invest in the facility and commitment to the community.

Thank you,
Silvano Preciado

Sent from my iPad

Amy Million - (no subject)

From: <JWMatthews@aol.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 8/13/2014 2:26 PM
Subject: (no subject)
CC: <info@beniciaCBR.com>



Benicia, August 13, 2014

Members of the Benicia Planning Commission:

As a long-time resident of Benicia, and as chemical engineer retired from the petroleum refining industry, I ask that you approve the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Valero's Crude by Rail project.

Permitting the refinery to bring in crude by rail will be beneficial not only for the economic effect on our community, but also for our nation, by providing Valero greater flexibility to choose crude oils, especially those from domestic sources.

The draft EIR has shown environmental benefits for our community by reducing air emissions, and economic benefits by creating additional local jobs.

Valero's commitment to safety in operations is demonstrated by the excellent safety record the refinery has maintained over the years.

For these reasons I believe the Valero Crude by Rail project deserves your support.

(signed original at the meeting)

John W. Matthews
575 Cooper Drive
Benicia, CA

August 14, 2014

To: The City of Benicia Planning Commission, City Counsel, and Mayor,

I have lived in Benicia for 42 years. My wife, Linda and I have raised our family here. We have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren. All live in this wonderful community. I am retired from the Benicia Refinery after 32 years of working for employers that I respected for their commitment to Safety, excellence, honesty and support for the community.

What we know about the Valero CBR project and how it helps us all:

The project is 3 rail tracks and an unloading rack, all on Valero property.

It does not change how the refinery operates, its' capacity or its' products. Emissions are reduced.

Valero needs this project to remain competitive. The Valero Refinery produces 25% of Bay Area and 10% of California's motor fuels. The Refinery is critical to Benicia and all Californians.

The project will add jobs, support the local and State economy and increase the tax base. California, the Bay Area and Benicia needs this project.

The project is required to utilize more domestic energy and reduce reliance on foreign energy, The US needs this project to support the economy, our security and our living standards and life style.

Crude by Rail is the only way the US can utilize more domestic energy on the West Coast.

Bottom line: The project benefits us all.

What the City of Benicia has done to evaluate the project:

Reviewed and studied the project for over a year. The process has ensured the community and the environment are being protected.

Developed a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which identified no negative impacts.

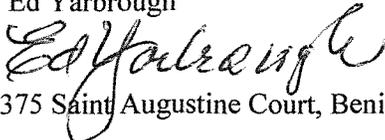
Commissioned an Environmental Impact Report. The EIR, completed by subject matter experts, found no negative environmental impacts and positive economic impact.

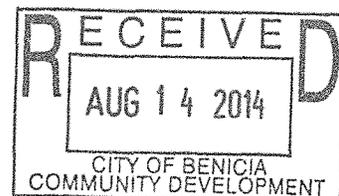
Allowed public input and consideration throughout the process.

The City has done its' duty and due diligence, and in so doing, have the positive information to approve the project. Valero has met all its' obligations for approval of the project.

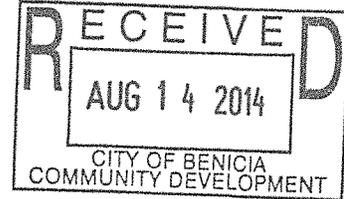
I ask now that you do you what is right and approve the project, for the good of The Nation, The State, Bay Area and City of Benicia, Valero and all of us.

Sincerely, Ed Yarbrough


375 Saint Augustine Court, Benicia, Ca. 94510



James Bolds Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014



Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission.

My name is James Bolds. I am Managing Consultant of BOLDS and Associates, LLC a firm specializing in railroad tank car consulting. I have 33 years of experience in the specification and maintenance of railroad tank cars transporting hazardous materials.

Since early 2012, I have been retained by Valero to assist in the specification and acquisition of new rail tank cars, including the tank cars that will be used for this project. I am glad to be here tonight to lend my expertise to the information being placed before the Commission.

I have a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and a Master of Business Administration. I have extensive experience in the specification and maintenance of tank cars. Through my experience at Union Carbide for 27 years I became the subject matter expert in transportation of hazardous materials by tank cars. Over the past 25 years I have served as the chairman of numerous task forces of the AAR Tankcar committee. AAR is the Association of American Railroads which is an industry association whose membership includes all of the major North American railroads companies. AAR's mission includes development of technical standards directed at the safe operation of

James Bold's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014

railroads. Please note that the AAR is not a governmental agency.

One of the missions of the tank car committee is to develop tank car standards which include CPC 1232 tank car specifications for the safe transportation of crude oil, ethanol and petroleum products.

My role for Valero in the acquisition of these CPC-1232 tank cars is to develop and recommend tank car specifications, review construction drawings for new tank cars, and inspect the tank cars through the fabrication and construction process.

Valero is committed to the acquisition of tank cars that meet CPC 1232 specifications and in addition they are committed to complying with federal regulations. All tank cars that Valero has ordered for this project indeed meet CPC 1232 standards. I would like to make it clear that CPC 1232 cars exceed the requirement of current federal regulations.

The US Department of Transportation regulates and enforces tank car specifications. Tank cars that transport crude oil are identified as Department of Transportation or DOT 111 tank cars. DOT 111 tank cars built to the CPC 1232 standard incorporate additional safety features. The CPC 1232 tank car standards are recommended by AAR. DOT is currently reviewing these standards at the request of AAR. Please note, the CPC 1232 safety features include:

James Bold's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014

- Fabricated from the best available high strength steel for tank car construction
- The steel is thicker than the legacy 111 tank car construction
- They have a reclosing safety valve – which allows for the controlled release of pressure and minimizes the release of tank content
- These tank cars have top fittings protection which protects the top valves
- And they are equipped with head shields which gives the car resistance against puncture potential

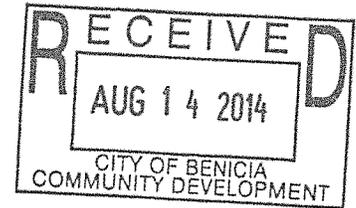
A legacy DOT 111 tank car is not equipped with these additional safety features nor will those cars be used in this project. Valero has acquired CPC 1232 specification tank cars for its Benicia project. The AAR considers the CPC-1232 a safe tank car for the shipment of Crude Oil. Based on my experience, a tank car built to the CPC-1232 standard is the safest DOT 111 tank car for Crude Oil service in use today. Currently there is proposed rulemaking by the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding the construction of tank cars. In the event this becomes law, I know Valero is committed to comply.

In closing I am glad to be here tonight and look forward to answering any questions you might have about crude oil tank cars.

**James Bold's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014**

Thank you.

Phil Daum's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014



Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission.

My name is Philip Daum. I am a Senior Managing Consultant at Engineering Systems Inc. in Aurora, Illinois.

I attended two of Valero's public outreach meetings on this project, in March (3/23/14) and June (6/30/14) of this year, and I am glad to be here tonight to again lend my expertise to the discussion.

In evaluating the Valero Crude-by-Rail Project, you are faced with the need to apply your knowledge of railroad operations, hazardous materials transportation safety, tank car design, tank car derailment performance, and risk management strategies. Valero has asked that I be here tonight as your resource on these topics.

You should know a bit about my background, experience, and other clients. I have over 33 years of direct experience in the railroad industry. This includes my work as the Director of Engineering for Union Tank Car Company and my selection as the Program Director for two separate international consortiums that improved tank car safety through research.

A current focus of my career is in accident investigations to determine root-causes that are used to continuously improve the safety of hazardous materials shipments.

Based upon my experience, I was asked to investigate the derailments at Lac-Mégantic, Quebec ... at Casselton, North Dakota ... at Plaster Rock, New Brunswick ... and at Lynchburg, Virginia. This is important to you because these are some of the accidents that project opponents point to as a reason to not pursue the Valero Crude-by-Rail Project here in Benicia.

I want you to benefit from some of my personal experiences as an investigator on those accidents. This will allow you to identify the facts and opinions that matter in the discussion regarding rail safety and the industries' continuing focus on safety.

Phil Daum's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014

You heard Mr. Flynn explain the subject of federal pre-emption, which holds that the authority to regulate railroad operations and tank car standards belongs to the federal government.

Note that the railcars delivering crude oil to Valero will comply with and be current with federal regulations as they develop. Older model railcars, referred to as "legacy DOT 111 cars," will not be used or accepted by Valero for the delivery of crude oil on this project.

The Valero railcars have thicker shells, stronger steel, roll-over protection for the top valves, and external head shields to guard against puncture in the event of a derailment.

A few weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced proposed rules for crude oil and other flammable materials. Among other things, these rules proposed:

- Enhanced tank car standards
- A testing and classification program for certain materials such as Bakken crude
- And railroad operational requirements for high-hazard flammable trains, or trains with more than 20 tank car loads of flammable liquid.

Note that Valero is ahead of the proposed requirement as they will not be using any legacy DOT 111 railcars on this project.

I mentioned some of the accident investigations in which I participated. My work was sponsored by the RSI-AAR Railroad Tank Car Safety Research and Test Project. Since the 1970's, the railroad, tank car, and chemical industries have worked together with the U.S. and Canadian governments to improve safety standards for railroad tank cars.

This Tank Car Safety Project conducted research and testing with the U.S. DOT and Transport Canada to evaluate design concepts for improving the survivability of tank cars in accidents. This research led to safety features such as head shields, double shelf couplers, bottom fittings protection, top fittings roll-over protection, and other

Phil Daum's Remarks
City of Benicia Planning Commission
Crude by Rail Project
August 14, 2014

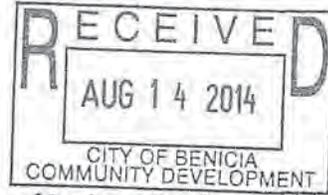
features that are incorporated on the newer designed tank cars that Valero will be using here in Benicia.

US DOT data confirms the value of Union Pacific's investment in track inspection and maintenance. Keeping the trains on the track is the first priority for safety. The data also confirms that the proposed speeds all along the route between Roseville and Benicia contribute to improve safety. The local operating speed in the City of Benicia will be 10 mph or less.

Union Pacific's plan to split the unit train into two equal halves and to use 2 locomotives, one at the head end and one embedded further back in each 50 car split also contributes to safety. This provides exceptional control for braking the 50 car split if must be stopped quickly in an emergency. This will also reduce the time required in grade crossings while spotting the train at the Benicia Refinery rack where the train will be split into 2 - 25 car segments.

In closing, I am glad to be here tonight and look forward to answering any questions you might have about tank car safety.

Thank you.



Benicia Planning Commission Members,

My name is Chris Wilburn. I work at the Valero refinery as the Manager of Business Services, which basically means I am the Finance and Accounting Manager for the refinery.

I live in Benicia.

My children attend school here. They are active members of school sports and band. I have coached sports teams in Benicia Little League, Youth Soccer, and Football. I have volunteered at their schools and other community events.

I support local businesses. I pay taxes.

I am a part of this community. The refinery is also part of this community. It provides volunteers for community service and purchases goods and services from local vendors from as small as a local hot dog stand to as large as a multi-million dollar scaffolding company.

I believe in this project. It provides flexibility to our business. Any business owner wants flexibility in procuring the inputs to their finished product, whether it is cabinets, tires, concrete, jewelry, groceries, or gasoline. It also adds jobs at the refinery to provide additional economic impact to the community.

I believe in the safety culture of this plant and this company. You have heard it before, but our facility is 1 of only 2 refineries in the state to receive the Cal/OSHA VPP Star site designation. There are only ~80 out of 1.8MM businesses in the state that are VPP Star certified. . .that is less than 5 one thousandths of a percent.

I believe in this DEIR. I believe the city has met its responsibility to prepare a DEIR that addresses all pertinent impacts of this project. I believe the city has and is providing sufficient time for the community to review the DEIR and provide feedback.

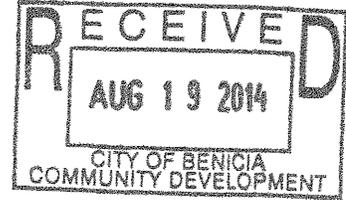
I believe the Planning Commission should support this project and approve it as we move forward in this process.

Thank you,

 08/14/2014
Christopher R. Wilburn

August 17, 2014

Amy Million, Principal Planner
Community Development Department
Benicia City Hall
250 East L Street
Benicia CA 94510



I write this letter to support the crude by rail project of Benicia Refinery. During the 34 years that I have lived in Benicia, in my opinion the Benicia Refinery has been an excellent neighbor and a generous corporate citizen. The City of Benicia should give its approval to the project so that the Benicia Refinery can continue in Benicia to compete economically in the highly competitive energy industry.

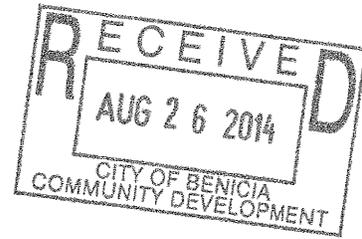
I urge the leadership of Benicia to not be swayed against the project by a vocal minority that has a very narrow viewpoint. I urge the city leadership to consider the grim fate of Vallejo, only six miles west. There in my opinion a vocal minority coupled with poor city leadership made it impossible for Wal-Mart to build a new store in Vallejo. Instead Wal-Mart moved to American Canyon, and today American Canyon is a thriving and healthy community. In contrast, Vallejo continues its long and painful decline, mired in destitution, bankruptcy, massive truancy rates, drugs, crime, murder, a police force staff inadequate to prevent its citizens from being mugged and kidnapped in broad daylight – all symptoms of a deeply troubled and dysfunctional community in my opinion.

Poor decisions by Benicia city leadership can make Benicia's future become like Vallejo's gloomy future, in my opinion.

William Westbrook
307 Drake Ct
Benicia CA 94510

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Westbrook".

August 26, 2014



Subject: Benicia CBR public comments hearing

Chair and members of the Planning Commission, Members of City Staff, Members of the public

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on the subject.

My name is Tom Lam. I am a project manager with 33 years of engineering and project management work experience, 25 of those years are in Benicia. I believe that for a project to be successful, it has to be the right project, with the right team, at the right place, at the right time, and for the right reasons

1. This is a right project for Benicia. Mayor Patterson in her recent address to Benicia Makers stated that Benicia is built on a strong manufacturing base, and she believes in manufacturing, she does not want to see manufacturing to become an “endangered species”. This is the right project for Benicia to help its local economy, maintain its strong manufacturing and revenues base, and put Benicia on the map, as Mayor Patterson puts it (youtube video 7/11/2014, Benicia Makers host Mayor Patterson video). This project reduces green house gas emission.
2. We are the right team. Valero and its contractors have years of experience and successful partnerships, excellent safety records in executing projects. Valero is a very safe operator and has demonstrated time and again with the support of its contractors and local regulating agencies. Valero recently is re-certified by Cal-OSHA to be one of the two refineries in the state to receive VPP Star Site designation (VPP is a Voluntary Protection Program). Valero’s employees and contractors are very proud of this safety record. We work hard to maintain it every day. Safe work practices are what we do every day.
3. This is the right place. Valero is a demonstrated safe operator. For any project, it is with great comfort and confidence to know that Valero is sponsoring and executing it, because we know that it will be done with due diligence, with best engineering practices, with all regulatory and environmental compliance and that it will be done safely.
4. Now is the right time. While our country continues to develop technologies for many alternative sources of energy, like wind, solar, electric hybrids, fuel cells, and biofuels, I believe that fossil fuel remains the dominant source of energy for years to come. This is the right time to help our country to become energy independent with the increasing production and use of domestic and North American crude oil. It is also the right time to help our local businesses to stay competitive and helps Benicia stay vibrant.
5. These are the right reasons.
 - a. Jobs: This project will not only provide new jobs during construction, it will also provide new permanent jobs to maintain the new facility operations, and it will also help sustain existing jobs for our local economy

- b. Revenues: This project will provide additional tax revenues and other revenues to help Benicia sustain a strong manufacturing base and keep a thriving local economy
- c. Domestic energy independent: some of us may remember the days back in 1970's when we had to stay in line for a long time to get gasoline filled up in our cars. There was the oil embargo from the OPEC countries. There are uncertainties now in that region. This instability threatens our national security and interests. We need to be prepared.

In closing, I believe Valero makes a product that we all benefit in our everyday lives, and yet we take it so for granted. Be it the automobiles, the buses or the planes, or the trains, or our lawn mowers, we all benefit from this product in one form or another. And we use it knowing that there is risk, but we manage and mitigate the risk as best we can and enjoy our modern day living like commuting, travelling and vacationing.

I urge your support for the project to help keep our local economy thriving and maintain our standards of modern day living. It is the right project, with the right team, at the right place, at the right time and for the right reasons. Thank you.

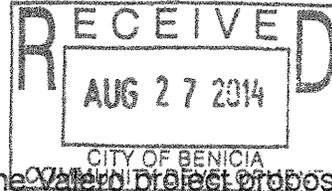
Respectfully,

Tom Lam

3400 East Second Street

Benicia, CA 94510

August 27, 2014



Benicia Planning Commission;

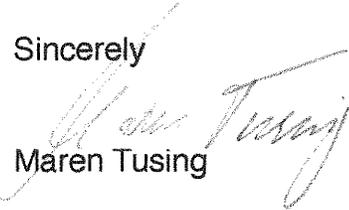
I like to state that my husband and I oppose the Valero project proposal to deliver crude oil by train to Benicia.

There are many many REASONS FOR OPPOSING THIS PROJECT. My husband Jeff, and myself, moved to Benicia in 1984. We moved from the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill area to Benicia for various reasons. Benicia was forward and progressive thinking: first in solar home construction...we still live in the same solar house! At the same time, Benicia experienced a great influx of celebrated artists who moved to the Arsenal in Benicia. It became a great weekend attraction to visit Benicia artists, and stroll along the waterfront and visit great restaurants. Then also Benicia can boast of excellent schools, a fresh breeze, and great sailing!!!! We were the proud owners of a catamaran.

My husband and myself were hooked on Benicia and committed many years of service to the community. My husband, an architect, served for more than 17 years on the Design Review Commission and I served on the Economic Development Board for many many years.

We are committed to keep Benicia safe and prosperous. We both have attended all of the Planning Commission meetings and listened to the self-serving statements of Valero. We encourage you to deny Valero's use permit to transport crude oil by train and keep Benicia and Benicians safe from this hazardous use. This is a safety and health issue not an economic issue.

Sincerely


Maren Tusing

Amy Million - CBR Support

From: "Bateman, Lori" <Lori.Bateman@valero.com>
To: "AMillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <AMillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/5/2014 3:16 PM
Subject: CBR Support
Attachments: My Company Valero Energy Corp.docx



To the members of the Benicia Planning Commission:

My name is Lori Bateman and I'm a Valero Benicia Refinery employee and Benicia resident for the last 25 years. I am writing in support of Valero's Crude By Rail project. I believe this project provides the refinery a chance to be consistently profitable in a highly competitive market, and to make it a viable asset for Valero Energy Corporation. My biggest fear is that the corporation may not want to continue to invest in and support a refinery that is not profitable.

It makes me sick to think that Valero could be denied this project. The discussion around the coffee makers or water coolers include fears of having the refinery sold to overseas investors (specifically China or India) who don't have a vested interest in our environment, much less our communities or jobs, and that the Benicia site would be much more valuable to them as a terminal for importing their products, and/or exporting our crudes. This keeps the worst polluters in business and expanding their markets, and shuts down one of the cleanest refineries in the world (that would be the Benicia Refinery). Or there's the scenario that some compare our refinery to Valero's former Delaware City Refinery that was so unprofitable, that they were forced to shut it down and walk away, leaving 550 people jobless, not to mention the other businesses it supported. It was so devastating to Delaware City and its community, that the state offered PBF Energy \$30MM as an incentive to purchase and restart the refinery. *That's* the kind of discussions we have with each other, and we're scared.

So it can be said that there is fear on both sides of the project.

California has always been the leader in safety and environmental standards and it's our day-in and day-out business to manage our operations to the highest of standards. So even though railcars are scary to those who don't handle them routinely, and spilling or exploding oil would be a horrible event by anyone's standards, I cannot wrap my mind around the hysteria surrounding the project, because there are so many standards, precautions, and safety measures already in place, *and managed extremely well every day*. I'm not saying a spill or explosion is impossible, but it would take a blatant disregard of numerous standards, precautions, and safety measures for it to actually occur, and that's not how the railroad nor how Valero operates its business, period.

However, from my side of the fear perspective, the Benicia refinery's contribution, or lack thereof, to Valero's profitability is *real and quantifiable*, as noted in any Valero quarterly report; it's happening RIGHT NOW; it's not hysteria, it is reality. We're tired of keeping our fingers crossed hoping that the economic tide will eventually turn in our favor, even if it's just enough to cover losses in this highly competitive California market. While anyone who thinks that the Valero Benicia Refinery will always be in business is definitely a vote of confidence, I'm not certain that I would make that bet.

So it's a choice between hysteria and reality, and it's your job to decide what the best choice is for this community.

Valero is an amazing employer and neighbor. I've attached a short essay I wrote that summarizes some facts that you may or may not know about your neighbor Valero, but that I think are important if there are any doubts in your minds about the company in your back yards. I hope you learn at least one new thing you didn't already know about Valero.

Thank You,
Lori Bateman



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Valero Energy Corporation

I've gone to the effort of assembling some facts about the company I work for to inform the community of what an asset and good neighbor they have in their back yards. I've worked for the Benicia refinery for nearly 26 years, which is well over half of my life, and I get the feeling that people don't understand what a reputable upstanding company Valero Energy Corporation is. Here is my attempt to share some of the things I know, and most of this information is available on the internet for everyone else to find.

Valero is a corporation began in Texas in 1980 as a natural gas company. Named after the original name of the Alamo (*Misión San Antonio de Valero*) in its headquarter city of San Antonio, Valero began to diversify its operations in the mid 1980's when it acquired half ownership of a refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas. In 1997 it spun off its refining division, keeping its Valero name, and selling the natural gas business to PG&E, and expanded its refining capacity when it acquired Basis petroleum, putting the total number of refineries at four (Valero Website, n.d., Our Business Company History).

In 2000, Valero won a major coup when it purchased Exxon's Benicia refinery after the Federal Trade Commission forced its sale as a result of the ExxonMobil merger. Compared to ExxonMobil, Valero was a "mom and pops" size company at the time, but due to its focus on taking care of its employees and the community, Exxon accepted Valero's bid even though it was the *lowest bid out of the three being offered*. The purchase of the Benicia Refinery was pivotal to the future of Valero and the following year Valero acquired another Benicia bidder, Ultramar Diamond Shamrock, doubling the size of the company and expanding operations internationally. Valero's current asset count is sixteen refineries with 3 million barrels per day

refining capacity, twelve ethanol and wind plants with 1.2 billion gallon per year capacity, and 7,300 wholesale branded sites operated in 44 states, Canada, the UK, Ireland, and the Caribbean.

The refining industry is a very market-driven industry that frequently loses money. The largest influence on the price of gasoline and other fuels is inventory, so as inventories go up, prices go down and vice versa. If a refiner has an upset in its operations, this results in a temporary market shortage and subsequent temporary upswing in refining margins for the refineries running reliably. This also means a higher price at the gas pump for the consumer. The competitive advantage that Valero or any refiner can have is by acquiring crudes at a lower cost. By being able to acquire crudes at a lower cost, this results in an immediate increase in margins, and does not require the misfortune of the competition to remain competitive, and it will not drive up prices at the pump. Finding and creating alternative means of getting lower cost crude into a refinery can mean the difference between staying and going out of business.

This might come as a surprise to some, but there is virtually no product differentiation when it comes to fuel due to strict government specifications. Some companies have attempted market differentiation with additives such as Chevron with Techron, or Shell with its nitrogen enriched fuel. This may have resulted in some brand loyalty, but the bulk of fuel is sold as generic fuel to outlets like Valero, Costco, Safeway, Beacon, etc.

Valero has the utmost respect for the environment and environmental laws, as well as the health and wellness of its employees and community. Valero's Social Responsibility Report 2013 devotes the bulk of its content to these matters and is committed to achieving excellence. Valero has received numerous awards for its commitment to the environment, health, and safety, and is an industry leader when it comes to having an open relationship with OSHA and has achieved OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status at 8 of its refineries with the

goal of achieving Star status at all of its refineries. VPP Star status requires meeting standards that are far more rigorous than the minimum safety standards set by OSHA, and includes an open door policy, allowing OSHA to visit anytime they want. Valero not only has 8 Star status sites, but has also passed along their teachings to 28 contracting companies that work for Valero and helped them achieve Star status as well. Valero's Star sites also serve as mentors to neighboring refiners, and encourage them to make the investment and commitment required to achieve Star status. This status must also be reassessed every 3 years, each recertification more stringent than the previous, forcing VPP sites to continuously improve their procedures and processes. Valero's proof of this effort and investment is working is reflected in their injury rate being less than half of the industry average. The only two refineries in California that hold the title of VPP Star sites are both owned by Valero Energy Corporation.

With regard to ethics, Valero has very stringent standards and practices and they are available to the public on their company website. Valero has no tolerance for unethical behavior and it is reinforced to every single employee through annual mandatory training, which includes real life examples of unethical behavior that has occurred within the company, and the training changes from year to year so that it is not something that the employees will ignore because it is never the same canned materials every year. Ethics training comes from the top down, and is being taught by the executive directors of the corporation, up to and including the CEO. Valero wants complete transparency in its business and will not tolerate even the perception of foul play. This does not only applies to accounting practices, but also employee relationships to contractors and vendors, sharing or providing insider information to anyone, even if it was unintentional, providing a harassment free workplace, and providing protection to the whistle blowers by providing a third party anonymous hotline, to name a few. Valero takes these matters very

seriously and goes to great lengths to ensure that ethics standards are being met by every single employee that works for them ("Business Ethics," n.d.).

Valero is also a huge supporter of the community. All employees are encouraged to volunteer their time and money to help those in needs. Valero is recognized as one of America's most community-minded companies in The Civic 50, an annual initiative that identifies and recognizes companies for their commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities where they do business. The survey was conducted by the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) and Points of Light, the nation's definitive experts on civic engagement, with the results published by Bloomberg News. Valero was the only refining company, and one of only four energy/utility companies, to make the list. Valero and its employees pledge to donate \$10.6 million to the United Way in 2014 with Valero's fifty-cents-on-the-dollar matching funds program. The company raised a record \$10 million for children's charities across the United States in 2013 through the Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children. The contribution is the largest charity gift of any tournament on the PGA TOUR. Since Valero became the title sponsor of the event in 2002, it has raised \$81.5 million for children's charities ("Social Responsibility Report," 2013, p. 22). Valero also provides paid time to its employees who volunteer in the community during normal business hours and has a Valero Volunteer Council that provides an endless supply of volunteer opportunities to its employees. Employees are also encouraged to sponsor and facilitate charitable events, which not only provide much needed funds to their choice of charities, but also foster camaraderie amongst the event participants.

Valero follows the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that govern the practice of financial accounting. I compiled the following table, and provided a couple typical

ratio calculations with an additional calculation of the gross profit percentage to illustrate the difference between profit margins in refining as compared to a discount retail chain.

All figures used are in thousands

Ratio Name			
Format	Type	What it measures	VLO
Current Ratio: Current assets/current liabilities	Liquidity: measures the ability of an organization pay off short term liabilities that come due	Compares current assets (assets that will provide cash in the next year) to current liabilities (debts that will come due in the next year).	\$19,277,000 / \$13,123,000 =1.47 1.2 to 1.5 where most successful businesses operate
Debt to Assets: Total liabilities/total assets	Leverage: measures the extent to which a firm uses debt to meet its financing needs	Similar to debt-to-equity, but compares debt to assets rather than equity.	\$27,800,000 / \$47,260,000 = 0.5882 or 58.82% A normal debt ratio ranges from 60-70%

Comparison:	Valero	Walmart
Gross Profit Percentage: Gross profit/net sales revenue	\$10,758,000 / \$138,074,000 = 0.0779 or 7.79%	\$118,225,000 / \$476,294,000 = 0.2482 or 24.82%

("WMT Income Statement," 2013) ("VLO Income Statement," 2013)

These figures are for the entire Valero Corporation, and the GPP for refiners in California are even lower and frequently negative. While the public perception might be that "Big Oil" makes obscene amounts of money, the comparison to Walmart, a discount retailer who makes over 3 times as much profit from their net sales, clearly shows that this is not the case at all. Had I used a comparison to companies like Apple, Google, or Amazon, I would have illustrated very clearly where obscene amounts of money were really being made.

Overall, Valero is an extremely reputable company that has made Forbes top 100 companies to work for, for 9 years in a row. Valero strives to be the best of the best in every aspect of the business and constantly pushes to achieve excellence in all of its operations.

Valero's employs a system called Commitment to Excellence Management System, or CTEMS.

CTEMS has nine major elements, with detailed expectations for each that provide a framework for achieving operational excellence:

1. Leadership Accountability
2. Protecting People and Environment
3. People Skills and Development
4. Operations Reliability and Mechanical Integrity
5. Technical Excellence & Knowledge Development
6. Change Management
7. Business Competitiveness
8. External Stakeholder Relationships
9. Assurance and Review

Operational excellence means reliable and predictable operations, which make our facilities safer and more efficient. CTEMS has counted many successes, in areas ranging from change management to risk assessment, fixed-equipment inspection and preventive maintenance. Valero will continue to assess existing programs against expectations defined in CTEMS, and establish plans to close any identified gaps ("Social Responsibility Report," 2013, p. 4). With this level of commitment to excellence, Valero is a company to be proud of, and I couldn't be more proud.

I hope you've enjoyed learning about your old neighbor who's been in Benicia for the last 45 years and that you will support its continued viability in California's tough economic market. Supporting the crude by rail logistics project can give the Benicia refinery a fighting chance for profitability and continued operation.

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Amy Million - Support Valero's Crude By Rail Project

From: "Frank, David" <David.Frank@Valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/8/2014 11:57 AM
Subject: Support Valero's Crude By Rail Project
Attachments: Support .pdf



I'm sending this in support of Valero's Crude By Rail Project..

David Frank



To the Benicia Planning Commissioners,

After thoughtful consideration of the information contained in the city of Benicia's Draft Environmental Impact Report I am fully supportive of Valero's Crude by Rail project. The DEIR explains that this project will have many environmental benefits for Benicia and the state at large and will ultimately improve air quality and lessen the likelihood of an oil release in our community.

I respect the rights of everyone to voice their opinion on any project that will impact his or her community. However, I feel it is equally important that these voices only supply facts rather than stir up fear or rely upon fiction. Per the City of Benicia's Draft Environmental Impact Report, this project will:

- Result in beneficial impacts to air quality in the Bay Area
- Reduce the risk of accidental release by replacing up to 82% of the current marine delivery of crude oil with delivery by rail, which is statistically much safer
- Employ safety standards that exceed mandatory compliance measures, including the use of 1232 rail cars instead of Legacy DOT-111s and a tremendous amount of training for local and uprail first responders
- And much more

Also per the DEIR, this project will not:

- Change refinery operations
- Change the refinery's current feedstock profile
- Alter the quantity of crude processed at the refinery
- Alter the type of crude processed at the refinery

Importantly, the refinery and railroad are making efforts to ensure that this project is not only safe to our environment and community, but also does not have any undue impact on the surrounding community. Just one example of this effort can be seen in regards to traffic, where the DEIR explains that:

- All switching activity of rail cars will occur on the refinery's property to prevent traffic delays or impacts
- Railcar transport would be scheduled so that none of the railcars would cross Park Road during the commute hours of 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

I believe the Draft EIR does an adequate job of exploring all aspects of this project and its contents lead me to believe that this project will be good for Valero and good for Benicia. I ask you to please consider the importance of this project to the Refinery and of the Refinery to our town when making a thoughtful, informed decision about this project based upon facts rather than fiction.

Thank you,

Amy Million - Crude by Rail approval

From: "Felsoci, Mark" <Mark.Felsoci@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/8/2014 3:26 PM
Subject: Crude by Rail approval



Benicia City Leaders:

I want to thank the City of Benicia for its comprehensive analysis of the Valero Crude by Rail Project in the Draft EIR. This document provides us with important facts about this proposed project and ultimately concludes that the project will not have significant impacts on our community.

I know there has been some concern about this project increasing the amount of crude being brought into Benicia, as well as the composition and origin of the crude that will be transported. As the Draft EIR explains in great detail, this project is not about crude – it is simply about logistics.

The CBR project will not increase the amount of crude currently being transported into and out of the refinery, nor will it allow the refinery to process crudes that they are not already able to process. More specifically - this project will not increase the amount of crude being processed, the type of crude the refinery can process and it will not increase process emissions. It simply adds another mode of crude delivery for the refinery that will allow access to landlocked domestic crude.

Thank you to the City for this comprehensive Draft EIR. I ask Benicia City Leaders to show true leadership and certify the document, approve the project so that the Valero Benicia Refinery can continue without further delay. Doing so will provide more jobs and additional tax revenues for the community.

Sincerely,

Mark Felsoci

Amy Million - Public Comment on DEIR

From: <rfdlyons@pacbell.net>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/9/2014 10:42 AM
Subject: Public Comment on DEIR



The purpose of this email is to provide comment on the DEIR and the proposed Valero Crude-By-Rail Project.

I am 100% against this proposed project.

I support reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and restricting environmental emissions.....not making it easier for oil companies to access more crude oil, expand their infrastructure, and produce more oil-based products.

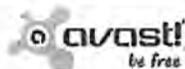
The oil lobby in the USA is powerful and seems invincible.

Zero-emission vehicles, plug-in and fuel cell electric cars, and other forms of clean energy must become a priority. This is of zero interest to Valero. And, why should it be, when their business is "refining oil?"

Blocking crude-by-rail sends a message to Valero that we do not intend to make access to fossil fuels easier for them and even more dangerous for our community.

Sincerely,

Joanna Lyons
641 Semple Court
Benicia, CA 94510
(707)980-2816



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Amy Million - I support CBR Project

From: "Porter, Alysia" <Alysia.Porter@valero.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, 'Brad Kilger' <BKilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/9/2014 3:47 PM
Subject: I support CBR Project



I support the crude by rail project because as an employee of Valero, I know firsthand that my company places safety as their No. 1 priority – for me, for the contractors that work in our plant, and for the residents living in Benicia. Earning the Cal/OSHA VPP star site designation for safety practices and procedures speaks to our commitment to safety, and I am confident safety is the No. 1 goal for each and every person involved with this project.

Also, there will be no changes to the amount or the type of crude oil processed at our refinery because of CBR either; and as always, we will continue to comply with existing environmental and air quality requirements set by regulatory agencies.

And the city of Benicia will benefit from our project! It will bring jobs to the community and generate tax revenues. It's a win-win situation for both Valero and Benicia.

Alysia Porter
Valero Benicia Refinery

September 9, 2014



To City Leaders in Benicia,

Valero has demonstrated time and time again that accident prevention is the top priority at the Benicia Refinery. Their commendable safety record and continuous VPP Star Site designation since 2006 both affirm that safe practices and procedures are interwoven into everything that they do. I have full confidence in Valero to operate this project with the same commitment to safety demonstrated by current operational standards.

The Draft EIR identifies more than a dozen regulatory agencies that mandate programs to promote workplace safety and prevent accidents both on and off-site. Additionally, the Draft EIR contains information about the Petrochemical Mutual Aid Organization (PMAO), an agreement for emergency mutual aid with other Bay area refineries to expand Valero's response capabilities beyond those already in place. The refinery has an on-site fire department and first responders that train with the Benicia Fire Department.

In July of this year, Governor Brown approved a state budget that includes funding for crude by rail accident prevention, preparedness and response. This is important because it supplements the current federal rail safety efforts with additional safety measures statewide. The budget features funding for the California Public Utilities Commission to hire seven additional track inspectors. Also introduced in the budget is a 6.5 cent per barrel fee on crude coming into the state by rail. 100% of the revenue from this fee will go to the expansion of California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) for prevention, emergency response preparedness, cleanup and enforcement.

Every day we accept the inherent risks associated with living one's life. We also mitigate those risks in a variety of ways such as wearing seatbelts or washing our hands. The Draft EIR comprehensively analyzes the risks associated with this potential project and determines that they are less than significant to deter this project. I strongly request you please approve this document and allow the project to begin without further delay.

Thank you!

My best,

Heidi A. Bucher
310 Drake Court
Benicia, CA 94510-1521



September 10, 2014

Honorable members of the Planning Commission,

I am a chemical engineer and a Benicia resident and am in support of the findings in the Draft EIR and the Valero Crude by Rail project. My husband, also a chemical engineer, and I chose to put our scientific training to work at Valero. We love Benicia and could not have found a better place to live and raise our two young children. We are thankful members of this community, support many of the city's activities, and have spent many hours volunteering in the community. I started the Valero tutoring program at the Benicia Middle School and Benicia High School. We are proud to have been helping students for almost 10 years now.

I can personally vouch for Valero's safety and caring culture. As an employee of Valero, I feel part of a big family that cares about everyone in the community. The safety culture is a way of life for us. When you have this love and caring spirit, you do not want anyone to get hurt. The safety culture is so strong that I even find myself holding on the rail of my stairs at home the million times I go up and down because safety is a way of life for me. Valero would never compromise safety for anything and I know that this Crude by Rail project will be designed as safe as possible.

Our culture is evident in our Annual United Way campaign where employees show that they are not only generous with their time, volunteering over 1000 hrs/yr, but they are also generous with their money. A big percentage of the charitable donations that you hear about in the community come from Valero employee's donation in our annual United Way campaign. The average personal donation between myself and coworkers to our UW campaign is \$1200/yr. This is \$1200 dollars out of our paycheck that we could have spent on the latest tech gadget, family vacation, or whatever our hobby is, but we choose to spend our money in the community helping others who need it most. This is the caring people that work at Valero and the family I am proud to be a part of.

We ship many products by railcar including propane (the most flammable). In fact, according the United States Department of Transportation website, "Rail transportation of hazardous materials in the United States is recognized to be the safest method of moving large quantities of chemicals over long distances." This means it is safer than truck or ship and even nuclear hazardous waste is shipped by railcar.

I can promise that Valero would not be pursuing this Crude by Rail project if it were a safety risk to anyone anywhere. Please look at the facts in the EIR that a third party consultant hired by the city put together and trust us and the railroad to continue doing what we do best.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Muehlbauer



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[Rail Network Development](#)

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[Legislations & Regulations](#)

[Grants & Loans](#)

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[Program Areas](#)

[HazMat Transportation](#)

[Overview](#)

[HazMat Transportation Safety](#)

[Tank Car Integrity](#)

[Damage Assessment and Improved Inspection Systems](#)

[Miscellaneous Hazmat Papers](#)

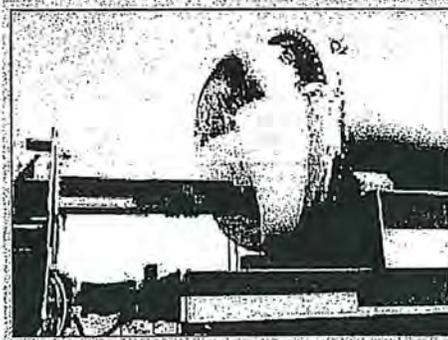
[Next Generation Tank Car Project \(NGRTC\)](#)



[Home Page](#) // [Research & Development](#) // [Program Areas](#) // [HazMat Transportation](#) // [Overview](#)

Hazardous Materials Transportation

The production, transportation, and use of hazardous materials are essential to the economy of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and to their technology-dependent societies. The increased harmonization of regulations, better data, and new technology, and cooperative efforts between shippers, carriers, tank car builders, and governments influence safe transport practices for hazardous materials.



Rail transportation of hazardous materials in the United States is recognized to be the safest method of moving large quantities of chemicals over long distances. Recent statistics show that the rail industry's safety performance, as a whole, is improving. In particular, the vast majority of hazardous materials shipped by rail tank car every year arrive safely and without incident, and railroads generally have an outstanding record in moving shipments of hazardous materials safely.

For all hazardous materials, in the 12 years from 1994 through 2005, hazardous materials released in railroad accidents resulted in a total of 14 fatalities. In the same period, hazardous materials released in highway accidents resulted in a total of 116 fatalities. Continuous sponsored industry and government improvements in rail equipment, tank car and container design and construction, and inspection and maintenance methods have resulted in reducing derailments, spills, leaks, and casualties while the volume of traffic increases.

Objectives

- Recognize incident trends by analyzing the accident/incident database and find, through research, ways to minimize the incident rate of leaks, spills, and damage to the environment due to hazardous materials releases.
- Lower the potential for loss of lading and reduce the exposure of hazardous materials to the environment and population in the event of a train accident caused by a derailment.
- Improve methods of inspection for tank car damage through the investigation of promising non-destructive detection technologies.
- Investigate emerging technologies and take advantage of national and international research programs that will increase the safety and efficiency of rail transportation.
- Continue to provide support to the Office of Safety's goals through the development of regulations and standards, as well as take a more active role in the tank car design approval process as a result of the changing roles of industry partners as the industry evolves.

Goals

The hazardous materials research program includes fostering innovation throughout the industry, helping development of new regulations and design standards that improve the safety and integrity of tank cars and other packages carrying hazardous materials, and continuing growth of new research programs that satisfy the need of the industry and government.

Fostering innovation. Throughout the years, FRA has had a substantial influence on technical research and development. These public research and development programs have helped the development of new technology by advancing basic knowledge and understanding. The information generated by this research is the most important product, helping to improve the new product or process to improve the package.

Regulations and standards. Since regulation of private activity is accomplished by specifying a limited number of conforming designs and processes, considerable economic pressure exists to continue use of the technology embedded in those designs and processes. It is the nature of government regulations that acceptable designs will not generally include the latest and most efficient technologies. FRA wants to devise strategic and tactical plans that include getting involved in areas where a clear societal benefit exists, causing the least disruption to the economic process. These plans will include new technologies to improve the tank car's integrity, as well as safe and rapid transport of hazardous materials.

See Also

- [FRA Hazmat Technical Reports](#)
- [Miscellaneous Hazmat Papers](#)
- [Hazardous Materials Rail Vehicle Security Monitoring System](#)

Amy Million - Valero CBR project - Draft EIR

From: "Meldner, Chris" <Chris.Meldner@valero.com>
To: "kbilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <kbilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/10/2014 4:12 PM
Subject: Valero CBR project - Draft EIR



Dear Planning Commissioners:

It took almost a year for the City's chosen experts to analyze the Valero CBR project and create the Draft EIR. Given their expertise and the length of time taken to ensure the report was thorough and complete, I ask you to please affirm Valero's request to begin transporting crude by rail.

Most project opponents have identified railroad safety and operations as the basis for their concern. As the Draft EIR details extensively, the Valero Refinery has agreed to go above and beyond federal standards to ensure rail safety, including the use of 1232 tank cars rather than DOT-111s. It should be noted, however, that the Draft EIR also identifies that this issue is federally preempted, meaning that the City of Benicia and the Valero Benicia Refinery are quite limited by jurisdiction when addressing rail operations.

As stated in Section 3-26, "Under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution, no state or local government may impose laws or regulations that unduly burden interstate commerce. Because railroads are a key component of the system of interstate commerce, most aspects of railroad operations are governed exclusively by federal law."

I appreciate the time and effort the City of Benicia put into compiling the Draft EIR and understand that the federal government places certain restrictions on the scope of City and State jurisdiction in this matter. I commend the City's Draft EIR for addressing railroad operations and safety to the greatest extent possible and ask that the DEIR be approved so the project may begin.

Thank you,

Chris Meldner
 Valero Benicia Refinery
 Manager New Construction & AFE Maintenance
 T. 707-745-7426

Amy Million - Comment on Valero Crude by Rail Project

From: Bernard Tatera <oceandance@gmail.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/10/2014 7:34 PM
Subject: Comment on Valero Crude by Rail Project



Bernard S Tatera Jr. P.E.

280 Carlisle Way, Benicia CA 94510

707-745-2606 oceandance@gmail.com

September 10, 2014

To : Amy Million, Principal Planner

Community Development Department

City of Benicia

250 East I Street

Benicia, CA 94510

Valero refinery in Benicia should be allowed to receive crude by rail with the provision that the rail cars that will be used to transport the petroleum crude on this route is the enhanced safety specification tank car referred to by AAR as CPC-1232. This is an industry standard agreed to in 2011 that exceeds current federal regulatory requirements for DOT 111 tank cars transporting crude oil.

The Roseville to Benicia route is 69-miles long with signaled track that is mostly

FRA class 5 with some class 3 track. The US railroads' accident rate has been declining for decades and this trend is likely to continue due to continued investment in infrastructure and various new technologies that are being developed to improve operating safety. Recent improvements in rail track on the proposed route by Union Pacific also would indicate the consideration to safety by the rail transporter.

I am satisfied with the results of UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN RAIL TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING CENTER STUDY that show that the expected occurrence of a crude oil train release incident exceeding 100 gallons between Roseville and Benicia is approximately 0.009 per year, or an average of about once per 111 years.

The comments from other Benicia residents highlighting the Catastrophic train accident and explosion in Lac-Megantic Quebec Canada in my opinion are irrelevant as the Canadian train derailment was a result of an unattended train parked on a 1.2 percent grade that ultimately traveled downhill unattended at high speed and resulted in a tragic crash. These conditions would not be expected to occur on the railroad

route from Roseville to Benicia.

Benicia is a town that is fortunate to have an established industrial base. The city leaders in the past took action to establish the industrial park when the Benicia Arsenal closed. I hope that city leaders today have the vision and foresight to allow continued operations and expansion of business at the Industrial Park in order to allow the city of Benicia and its residents to continue with economic vitality and have the opportunities and safe community we all have all have grown to expect living in Benicia.

Respectfully,

Bernard S Tatera Jr.



Dear Planning Commission,

I have been a resident of Benicia for the last 7 years and have worked at Valero Benicia as a Contractor for the last 11 years. Growing up in Solano County my entire life has revolved & or has been supported through the Oil & Gas industry as my father was Exxon Benicia before it became Valero. I understand the importance of SAFETY & Jobs that this Refinery has provided for its Community as well as their employees & contractors. As the Industrial Manager & VPP Coordinator for our Company, I am certified by Cal OSHA under their STM program. For those of you that don't know what VPP is, VPP is a Star Certification recognizing the companies who have implemented an effective safety & health management system in relationship with management, labor & OSHA. Valero has been recertified twice in the last 9 years & we ourselves received our recertification just last year. There are 77 companies in California that have earned the Star Site recognition from Cal/OSHA four of them are in Benicia & ALL FOUR are at Valero Benicia Refinery. I can honestly say that as many safety audits & evaluations that I do Valero Benicia IS the SAFEST Refinery I have ever been in; They not only emphasize the SAFETY & WELL BEING of their employees & contractors but the COMMUNITY as a whole.

In addition to helping us to achieve energy independence, this project will also provide local jobs and tax revenues for the City of Benicia. As a resident, the safety and livelihood of our community is very important to me. CBR will increase safety, air quality and provide additional job opportunities and increased funding for City services. With all due respect, as our City leaders, I ask that you please certify the Draft as complete and approve this project to allow Valero to begin transporting crude by rail.

Thank you.

Maria Ilomin
Safway Services, LLC.
Industrial Manager & Trainer - Western Division
VPP Coordinator
VPP STM Cal OSHA
VPPPA Region IX Board of Directors
536 Stone Rd., Suite H
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 332-7510 cell
Maria.ilomin@safway.com



Subject: Valero's Crude-by-Rail Infrastructure Improvement

Date: September 10, 2014

Dear Planning Commission Members,

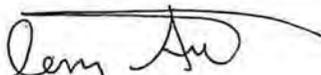
Your consideration of Valero's proposed infrastructure improvements in support of the Crude-by-Rail project has significance well beyond the confines of community of Benicia. The area's refineries provide vital resources that support the needs of our transportation system and provide economic strength through employment and direct payment of taxes. I urge the Commission to take an unbiased look at the contributions of the Valero Refinery and vote to support their efforts to serve the region's economy and quality of life. **Please vote to support the Crude-by- Rail project.**

Twenty-five years of residence in Benicia has given me a great sense of pride in the community and their support for a mixed residential and industrial economy. Benicia's balanced industrial and residential development is a model that other cities in California should emulate. Valero has been a responsible part of this model and their continued presence should be supported. The utilization of all potential sources of refineable product is vital to both the success of the industry and to the regions supply of petroleum. Restrictions on petroleum from particular sources will inevitably lead to reduced supply and higher prices at the pump. Unwise decisions with respect the industry may jeopardize the industries presence in the East Bay. For example, one would not have envisioned Tesla's departure from the San Francisco Bay area: but alas, Nevada, not California has been chosen for their new plant (undoubtedly the result of many well intentioned restrictions).

Over thirty years in the Environmental Industry provides a perspective on industrial activity and associated risk. The ESA Draft Environmental Impact Report does not identify any unacceptable impacts despite their classification of some relatively minor issues as "potentially significant." Traffic congestion in the Industrial Park, much of it refinery related, is hardly a reason to disapprove critical plant upgrades. Certainly the City of Benicia can come up with a workable solution that does not involve restrictions to nighttime only operations. Air quality impacts due to rail line activity along an existing rail corridor would seem like predictable phenomena: it is not clear why that constitutes a potentially significant impact. Similarly, ascribing potentially significant impact to spills and accidents at an already operating refinery appears excessive and would, in reality add only a minor "incremental" element of risk. Wet lands impacts are much the same with existing mitigation measures being adequate. I urge the Planning Commission to view the proposed project as informed and knowledgeable citizens and **support Valero's proposed infrastructure improvements.** There are numerous county, State and Federal agencies that monitor rail safety, air and water quality: not to mention industrial safety. Let these agencies do their jobs. Benicia should look to the future and support the region's economy.

Please consider Valero's good record as an employer and its contribution is for our community. As a local employee with CB&I, and a worker in the environmental industry, I strongly support this project as Valero provides jobs, supports our economy, supports local charities, and shows great concern for the safety of Benicia. I think the responsible thing is to approve this project and keep Valero thriving. Please vote to approve crude by rail.

Thank you, Tim Ault – California Professional Geologist

 9-10-2014



MAIN OFFICE
5141 Commercial Circle
Concord, CA 94520
PH: 925.685.6799
FX: 925.685.6851
LIC. # 199902

Southern California
13052 Dahlia Street
Fontana, CA 92337
Ph: 909.350.0474
Fx: 909.350.0475
LIC. # 199902

Pacific Northwest
18644 72nd Avenue
Kent, WA 98032
Ph: 425.251.1684
Fx: 425.251.6548
LIC.# CONCOCCO44LS



September 10, 2014

Amy Million
Benicia Planning Commission
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Benicia Planning Commissioners:

As a member of the business community in Benicia, I understand the costs and responsibilities associated with project development and approval. After a review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Valero Crude by Rail Project I want to offer my support for the proposed improvements and to commend the City of Benicia and the experts chosen for their thorough analysis provided in the Draft EIR.

After reading the report, there should be no doubt that the environmental impacts of such a project are taken very seriously and have been given careful consideration by Valero and the City of Benicia. Additionally, with the boom in domestic energy throughout our nation, our local economy cannot afford to fall behind the industry standard. With over \$3 billion in economic activity in our region over the last eight years, Valero is a vital partner in the economic vitality of Benicia and the Bay Area as a whole.

By reducing the overall environmental impact of their business, providing additional well-paying jobs and keeping up with state of the art for energy production in America, Valero will help to ensure the success of Benicia and surrounding communities. Please certify the Draft EIR so that the project can move forward.

Sincerely,

Darren Ratekin
The Conco Companies



Valero Crude By Rail Project

Comments prepared for speaking at August 14th Commission Meeting but presented only a short version – Below are my full comments

My name is John Lazorik. My wife and I have lived in Benicia for 25 years where we raise our two children, and I share your desire to ensure that Benicia remains the safe, clean and healthy community that we all enjoy.

I hold a masters degree in environmental management and have worked in the environmental field for over 27 years, the past 10 years, as an environmental engineer at Valero. I understand the risks associated with the handling and transport of flammable materials, but I also know the regulations, procedures, and resources that are in place to minimize those risks and to respond to them in the unlikely event of an environmental incident.

I work side-by-side with some of the most dedicated, ethical and talented people in the industry. This extends not only to my fellow Valero employees, but also to our contractors and the regulatory agency staff with whom we work with on a daily basis.

It is an enormous responsibility to operate a petroleum refinery in the San Francisco Bay estuary, one of the world's most ecologically complex waterways... It's a responsibility that we take very seriously. I am one of about two dozen environmental, health & safety staff at Valero whose sole responsibilities are to ensure that the refinery manages its business in an environmentally sound manner and with no harm to our employees and the people of our community.

My wife and I choose Benicia as our home as do many other Valero employees. Like you and your families, we all breathe this air, we drink the water, we fish and recreate in and around the Bay.... We are deeply vested in this community.

We take great pride when we hear our regulators compliment us on our extraordinary environmental stewardship or when our contractors share with us that they feel safer in our refinery than any other place they've worked in..... and we hear these comments quite often.

As I heard John Hill say at one of the public hearings at the Iron Workers hall, "if you're going to have a refinery in your city... you want it to be Valero". I wish all of you really understood how true that statement is. Our corporate culture emphasizes community involvement, safety performance and strong environmental stewardship. This is backed by years of us demonstrating the sincerity of these values, as many of you know.

This crude by rail project is a critical step in Valero remaining strong and viable in this extremely competitive and challenging California energy market.

The health of the City and its industrial constituents are very closely linked. As Benicians who TRULY care about the overall health of our town, the focus should not

be solely on preventing this project from proceeding, rather, we should be working together to identify the REAL impacts associated with the project and determine the appropriate mitigative measures necessary to protect our community.

This EIR was a massive undertaking by the City and its consultants, which pulled together subject matter experts from multiple disciplines. It is time to replace fear, drama, and inaccurate speculation with the facts that are presented in this document. And basing decisions on facts, one can clearly arrive at the conclusion that the crude-by-rail project has both direct and indirect benefits to Benicia, benefits that outweigh the risks.

When it comes to this project, there are many here who believe the only tolerable risk is zero-risk, yet I'm fairly certain that no one here lives a zero-risk life. How many here with children or pets have power tools, medications, household cleaners, or other items that could prove harmful or even fatal if accidentally ingested or could otherwise cause great injury? These are things that pose real dangers, yet we choose to have them in our homes, taking what we believe to be reasonable steps to mitigate the hazards. This same concept of risk management also applies to the crude by rail project.

Crude-by-rail has gotten all the attention it deserves and with well designed off-loading facilities, state-of-the-art railcars, increased rail safety measures to prevent accidents, and emergency response preparedness, North American crude oil will be brought safely to our refinery just as crude oil is currently brought here safely by marine vessels and by pipeline.

It is important to understand that ANY of the North American crude oils made more readily available by this project fall squarely within the spectrum of hazardous materials routinely moving through Benicia today. It is neither the least hazardous, nor is it the most hazardous. The fact is, ALL hazardous materials transported in and out of our town must be managed and transported with great care, and history has shown that this can be accomplished without incident.

As a Benicia resident, it is important for ME to know that a project such as crude by rail will not jeopardize the safety of my family or cause harm to this precious environment that we all enjoy. With that said, I fully support this project and am confident that Valero, Union Pacific, and all key stakeholders will implement this project with great care and with the appropriate level of safeguards.



September 10, 2014

ATTN: CITY OF BENICIA, Planning Commission

RE: CRUDE BY RAIL

Please approve this project as it conforms to the long-term objectives of the Benicia Industrial Park; jobs, city revenue, and community support.

Benicia High School and college students look to our Industrial Park for jobs.

Our charities depend on Industrial Park generosity.

Crude By Rail is good for Benicia.

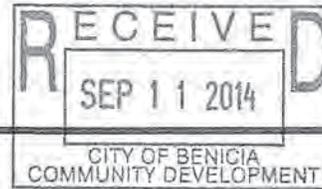
Thank you,


William & Delena Darnell

342 Lori Drive

Benicia, CA 94510

Amy Million - Valero Crude by Rail Project



From: <kirkallen@aol.com>
To: <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <kirkallen@aol.com>
Date: 9/11/2014 3:28 PM
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail Project

To the Benicia Planning Commissioners;

I am writing to offer my support for the Valero Crude by Rail Project and to commend the City of Benicia for the thoroughness of its Draft Environmental Impact Report.

As Benicia residents, we all have a stake in the safety and economic prosperity of this community. That's why the City hired experts to analyze and address safety concerns in the form of an Environmental Impact Report. The level of expertise involved in analyzing this project and compiling the Draft EIR is impressive. As I understand it, the City chose these experts based on their credentials and experience in highly technical fields.

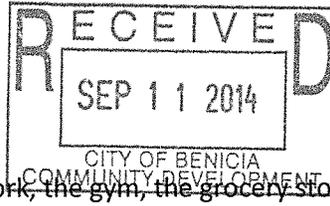
This project simply seeks to add another mode of crude transportation for the refinery. The Valero Benicia Refinery is an important member of the Benicia community and we should be doing everything we can to ensure they remain profitable in a shifting marketplace.

I graduated from the California Maritime Academy in 1980 and have worked on several ocean going Oil Tankers. These ships carry in excess of a million gallons of crude oil in them to the refineries around the country. Carrying crude oil by railcar is just another way to get the oil into the refinery. We have to be able to transport the oil in any way that is financially feasible to the oil refineries and keep the cost of gasoline down.

I support the City in its thorough assessment and ask that the Draft EIR be approved so that this project can move forward without continued delay.

Thank you,

Kirk Allen
575 Phelps Ct
Benicia, CA 94510



Dear Planning Commissioners,

As someone who has to use their car to commute to work, the gym, the grocery store etc., I care about gas prices. I also care about my ability to contribute to these efforts.

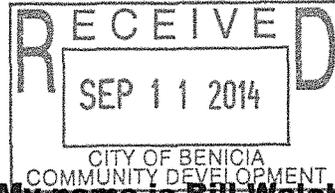
As a 24 year Vallejo resident I see it as my responsibility to remind you that Valero is an amazing part of our community. As Benicia's and Vallejo's largest company and employer, Valero has the ability to increase our use of domestic energy supplies via access by rail. Valero's proposed crude by rail project allows the refinery to refine a larger portion of domestic oil, thereby lessening our dependence on foreign oil, including oil from the Middle East. Domestic oil will boost the American economy and keep jobs here rather than abroad.

Please vote to approve this important project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Carpenter".

Rick Carpenter
925-473-3007



Dear Planning Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is ~~Bill Welch~~. I am a resident of Benicia and Lead Chemist at the Valero Benicia Refinery. Please think for a moment about what makes Benicia such a wonderful place to live; vibrant parks, a public library and community center and safe streets, just to name a few. Now imagine a Benicia if the tax revenue used to fund vital services like our fire and police departments ^{were severely reduced} disappeared. That is what would happen if Valero no longer operated in our community: 25% of our annual General Fund revenue would vanish.

In an ever-changing economy, many industries are adapting and finding better, more efficient means of operation to ensure continued stability. In Valero's case, this new means of productivity is the addition of a third option to transport crude oil to the refinery. Crude by rail is a safe, cost-effective method of crude transport that would allow the Valero Benicia refinery to remain competitive in a shifting marketplace and among the other Bay Area refineries. It would also reduce the risk of spill compared to current modes of crude transportation and improve air quality in Benicia and statewide.

Benicia has thrived since the addition of Valero to our community. According to a recent economic study, Valero contributes over \$7 million in taxes to the City of Benicia each year, and has donated over \$13 million to local charitable causes in the past decade. The refinery directly employs 450 local workers and requires an additional 250 contractors working on-site each day. The economic activity associated with the refinery supports 3,900 jobs in the region. Allowing the Valero Benicia refinery to implement their proposed crude by rail project will only see these numbers increase. More jobs and tax revenues are good for Benicia.

I encourage you to support Valero's future and the future of our wonderful town by approving this project.

Thank you very much,

William T. Welch 8/14/14
William T. Welch

9/10/2014

I support this project because there are no good ^{substantial} ~~credible~~ reasons not to. There is less to fear and more to be gained by approving the project than by not approving it.

Everything I hear and read from people who oppose the project is based on fear: fear of spills, fear of greater air pollution, fear of more cars, fear of change, fear of the unknown, fear of fear.

Most of these fears are misplaced. Accidents happen. That is a given. However, from the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), the probability of an oil spill on land is less than the probability of an oil spill on water. Plus for the same size spill, it is much cheaper and easier to mitigate an oil spill on land, than on the water. Think the impact to wildlife and fish if a spill occurs on water and how long it lasts.

you must put things in perspective & weigh benefits vs risks.

On the other side of the coin, of fear, is opportunity.

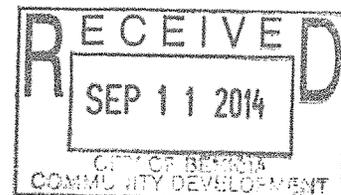
The rail project will create jobs, make us more independent from foreign oil, and generate increased tax revenue for the city of Benicia by allowing Valero to be more profitable. According to the DEIR, not only does the project comply with safety and noise issues, it will decrease Greenhouse gas emissions over time.

It will make producing gas more economically efficient, which may go towards lowering the price of gas as well. We citizens all benefit.

Also, consider the cost of not doing the project. It will be a lost opportunity forever. Lost capital year after year in the future

Not approving the project will further substantiate the claims that Benicia is in effect anti-business, anti-progress, obstructionistic and antagonistic to change. Stories about how hard and expensive it is for businesses to get started and expand in this town abound. Just consider the possibility of Valero starting an oil refining business here in Benicia from scratch, if it weren't already here. Given the current City's views, the probability I believe is between zero and none.

I have heard it said that Benicia's refinery is one of the least profitable for Valero, if it is profitable at all. Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg. The oil refinery and industrial base kept the city going and thriving after the 60's, when the Arsenal was closed. Valero produces 25% of our city's revenue. They have given over \$13.7 million to local charities over the past 10 years. If Valero goes, and don't kid yourself, if we make it hard enough for them, they will, then we may become another Vallejo.



There is a saying, "Capital goes where it is treated well." That is why Wal-Mart went to American Canyon, rather than to Vallejo. Vallejo's failure to encourage and support it's economic base led to it's bankruptcy.

We must recognize that no legal document or DEIR can cover all eventualities. At some point you have to rely on the good will of Valero to do what is right. But Valero has a long and proven record of doing just that. They have had the highest rating of refineries in the US for several years.

One more quick point. I heard some antagonists to the project say that the refined oil will be exported and not used for American consumption. First of all, the US is NOT oil independent. The US produces in barrels of oil only half of what we consume every day.

Secondly, so what if the oil is exported? That is a good thing. If we could take the pressure off Europe and especially Eastern European countries from being so dependent on Russian oil, that is a huge benefit. I would rather fight the bullies of the world economically through exporting oil to our allies than taking up arms.

Finally, the stronger we are economically, in the city, in the state and in the country, the more options are available to us. There is more capital to spend on R&D, for more efficient cars, for cleaner air, for cleaner water and for all kinds of projects for good.

It is profit and good will, which will create a brighter future for us and for future generations.

Suzanne Kleiman
446 Mills Drive
Benicia
707-748-0202

For your consideration:

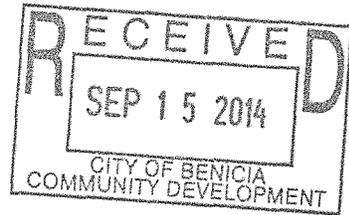
I have lived in Rodeo for 61 years but I work and spend a lot of time in Benicia. With Rodeo being a refinery town like Benicia, we have to step back and take a look at the benefits the refineries provide us.

Valero provides 25% of the City's General Fund revenue. The refinery's activities support over 450 local jobs and 3,900 jobs in the region. Many of the local charities have received millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours from the refinery and its employees as well.

Remember the impact Valero has on this community and realize that they do not want to jeopardize the city of Benicia or its people. The refinery is run on safe practices for protection of the people. Please take all this into consideration and support their actions by approving the Crude by Rail project.

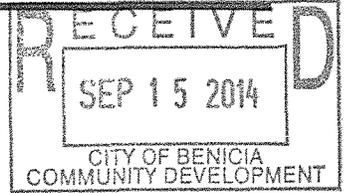
Thank you,

Billie Bowden



Amy Million - Please forward my comments to Benicia's Planning Commissioners

From: P Rubin <pumpkintrust1@yahoo.com>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/14/2014 11:45 AM
Subject: Please forward my comments to Benicia's Planning Commissioners



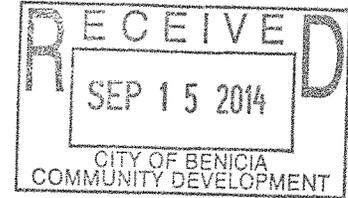
I suggest you go ahead and approve the crude oil rail project. We need to create more jobs and opportunities for not only Benicia, however, to the Sacramento region as well. We need to reduce over foreign dependency on oil and by now we should realize this is our better option.

Preston Rubin
707 205 7550

9-14-2014

City of Benicia
Benicia Planning Department

Re: Draft EIR – Valero Crude by Rail Project



Benicia Planning Commissioners:

Thank you for this opportunity to lend my full support for the City of Benicia's Draft EIR on the Valero Crude by Rail Project. I am confident that the City of Benicia and independent experts hired by the city, with their combined expertise, have provided a thorough investigation and analysis of this project for this community to consider.

The Draft EIR identifies potential impacts which include:

Reduced air emissions in the offset of crude delivered by ship (DEIR 4.1-16)

Does not modify existing permits but only the inclusion of the permits for the new equipment in the Refinery's Title V permit (DEIR 4.1-17)

As this is a refinery, there are certain risks that are inherent to the business. We should continue to demand the oversight in operations to minimize that risk. The community should be involved in the processes that will need to be put in place with the issuance of this permit. We should not only expect the partnership from Valero but incorporate that partnership into the fundamentals of our community's safety programs.

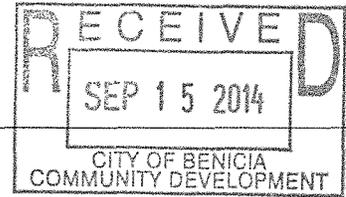
The addition to the short term and long term jobs, the additional business base will only be beneficial to the financial growth of the City of Benicia.

Sincerely

Randy Norman
100 Carlisle Way
Benicia, CA

Amy Million - Crude by Rail

From: <beniciarealtor@comcast.net>
To: <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/14/2014 2:33 PM
Subject: Crude by Rail



Good Afternoon:

I would like you to know that I completely support the Valero crude by rail infrastructure project being proposed.

There are many reasons I feel this way:

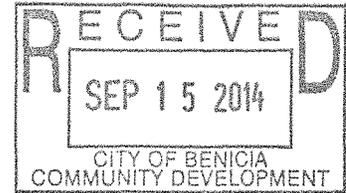
1. First of all it will actually improve the air quality not only in our own city of Benicia, but as a result the entire world's atmosphere by the reduced number of ships bringing in the crude oil.
2. These ships bring in foreign oil, and I would much prefer that the United States is more self sufficient and bring in crude from our own country versus lining the pockets of foreigners. In addition, we would have a lot less of the marine hitchhikers that are polluting our waters with the creatures that find their way into the ballasts of these ships and then they invade our ports.
3. The fear mongers would have you believe that we could have accidents due to the train transportation, but in actuality if there was a problem on a train versus the ship there would be much less crude to have to deal with wherever the accident happened.
4. The railroad that would oversee the movement of the crude has an excellent safety track record.

Please make note that I highly endorse this project and hope it comes together as quickly as possible.

Thank you,
Linda Sanderson
V.P. Sr. Sales Counselor
Cal BRE# 01247775

Benicia 9/11/2014,

Good Evening Members of the Benicia City Council:



My name is Marisol Pacheco-Mendez, I'm a resident of Benicia and over the past 25 yrs worked in Environmental compliance. One of my responsibilities is to develop Greenhouse Gas emission inventories that are reported to the State of California. So, this caused me to give a critical eye to the Draft EIR for the Crude by Rail project.

I consider the draft EIR to be complete and accurate. This EIR has been developed by experts retained by the city and the facts are clearly stated in the document.

In the Draft EIR, two items in particular that caught my attention: first, the net air emissions reduction in the Bay Area and second, no increase in process emissions. I'm very glad about that because it's a BIG win for the environment.

The project will reduce 225,000 Metric tons CO₂e of Greenhouse Gases which represents about 7-9% of our facility total.

For approximately the past year, supporters and opponents have expressed their opinions. The CEQA process allows for that. California is unique to have this type of process where the citizens are allowed to express their opinions.

Yet, as a scientist, I know you will base decision on facts not fears, myths and misinformation. If clarity is needed on any fact or data in the EIR the City Staff and its consultants have called upon many **credible** resources to provide you expertise with a variety of topics, including in the past meeting (train car designer expert, train accident expert, emergency responders, Union Pacific, etc.).

I understand there are risks associated with this project; as in everyday life, however, safety regulations and practices – with focus on prevention – minimize those risks. I have heard concerns about the “what ifs regarding accidents and first responders”, I know that the City of Benicia, Union Pacific and Valero first

responders are communicating, meeting and are well trained and continue to expand their joint training opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my expertise with you.

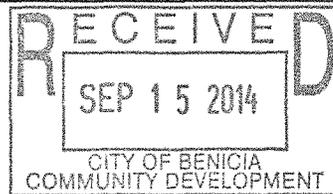
As an individual,

Marisol Pacheco-Mendez

Benicia, California 94510

Amy Million - Valero

From: James Everhart <jimepatd@att.net>
To: "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/15/2014 8:45 AM
Subject: Valero



We attended the Sept. 11th meeting regarding Valero. We are for Valero putting in those new tracks.

We feel Valero is good for Benicia. My husband and I have lived in Benicia for the last 30 years.

The ships are fowling our bay with the ballast they empty into our water. If there should be a spill it is much harder to contain in the water. Foreign ships use single skin haul. We are much safer with rail .

The railroad has been coming through Benicia for over 75 years. They carry bombs, chemicals, oil, and other dangerous cargo from Oakland to Roseville and further east and back again.

My husband retired from the Union Pacific after 42 years. The railroad is much safer now then it was 50 or 60 yrs ago.

The Federal regs. are very strict.

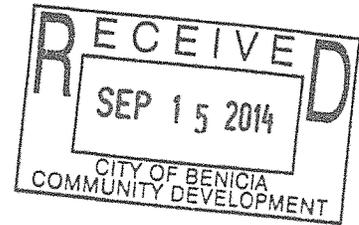
For those who have purchased homes near Exxon now Valero the refinery has been there since 1968.

Thank you,

Patricia Everhart
878 Channing Cir
Benicia, Ca. 94510

707-745-3674

David R. Lockwood
495 Gray Court
Benicia, CA 94510



September 15, 2014

Benicia Planning Commission
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

RE: Proposed Valero "Crude by Rail" DEIR

Members of the Planning Commission:

I believe this project is very worthy of your affirmative action!

As the DEIR states this is a net plus for the environment in its reduction of harmful emissions. I further believe that the potential/probability of a cataclysmic explosion of a train is very low; certainly lower than a ship explosion in our port (which could wipe out the Arsenal Industrial Park and perhaps a part of downtown).

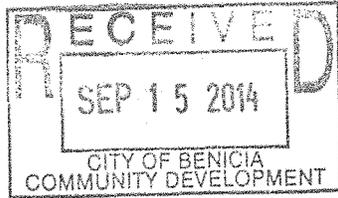
Further comment:

I watched with great interest the actions of the NRDC at the Planning Commission hearing on the DEIR. As a former planning strategist one always has to look at the cause and effect that any change will have; IE who will lose by the change and how will they react.

In this case foreign oil interests and oceanic shippers are the big losers. The Valero proposal is fearsome to them not only for the loss of Valero's business, but also it would set a precedent for other West/East Coast refiners to do likewise: A monumental shift in oil independence and ocean shipping. They have been strangely quite during these proceedings!

Could it be that they are funding NRDC to put up a scare tactic? When one watched behind the scenes (as I did) the actions of the NRDC "Whip" to get people to come forward to speak before you with coaching and scripting tactics you have to know there are big stakes involved in supporting their actions. I found it particularly noteworthy that the "whip" spoke to nearly all of the Davis speakers before they came into the Council Room (as well as others). Her actions were deliberate and disciplined. It should give you pause to think why would a project that has positive impact on the environment cause the NRDC to act in opposition!


David R. Lockwood



Brian Stone
554 Cooper Drive
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: 707 748-5660

15 September 2014

Benicia Planning Commission (a.million@ci.benicia.ca.us, bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us)

re: Valero's Crude Oil by Rail Project

I support Valero's proposal to bring in crude oil from the Midwest by rail.

Reasons I support proposal:

Rail is less polluting than ship (current method). Shipping distances are considerable less.
Crude oil from the Midwest keeps capital in the US (versus current practice).
Jobs are created and maintained in the US (an improvement over current situation).

Volumes could be written - I don't have the time.

Replacing imported crude oil with domestically produced crude oil is a no-brainer.

Prevention of accidents and mitigation of any accidents is a lot easier and limited in impact when compared to ships and the affected environments.

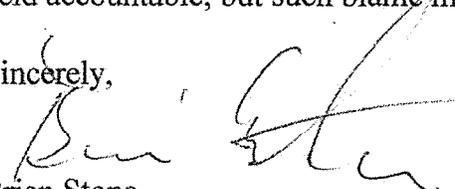
Rail shipments use existing infrastructure and would lead to better maintenance and improvements. Perhaps pipelines could replace some of the rail shipments in the future.

Valero's proposed activity occurs largely in the Benicia Industrial Park where traffic impacts, noise, and other related activities that might occur should be accepted as a normal situation. (Worrying about how long a rail crossing is used or impact on other businesses in the Park is bogus. If such businesses have a concern they should consider relocating, and other routes avoiding congested rail crossing can be used.)

The EIR process mandated by CEQA for documenting impacts and mitigation measures and should not be the tool to coerce change on how society uses energy and maintains itself.

It is unfortunate that those that abuse CEQA causing delays and additional expenses can not be held accountable, but such blame must be assigned to politicians.

Sincerely,

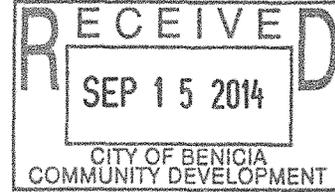


Brian Stone
Retired Forester

ps: Public Access TV of the Thursday, Sept 11, Planning Commission Hearing was excellent, and many others made my concerns more eloquently.

cc: info@beniciaCBR.com

Cameron Wicklow
1630 Saint Francis Ct.
Benicia, CA 94510
8/14/14



City of Benicia Planning Commission
C/O Amy Million (amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us)
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear City of Benicia Planning Commission:

I've lived in Benicia most of the last 15 years. I support the project because of what it means for Benicia. It's rare to have a project that has so many benefits to energy independence, reducing greenhouse gasses, local job creation, and emissions reductions.

I am an engineer who has worked in or with all areas of the refinery including the environmental, safety and operations departments. My first hand experience with the policies, procedures, and people in these areas and the rest of the refinery, give me the confidence to live in Benicia and to raise my children here. I have lived across the street from the fence-line, just a few houses down from two other Valero employees who live there. I also know of engineering and legal employees from another local refinery that chose to buy houses on the Valero fence line.

As an engineer in this industry for over 15 years, I may have additional understanding of the EIR than the average resident, but I know that I will never, personally be an expert in all areas covered by the EIR. I am also happy to know that both sides have good intentions. However, as an engineer, I can not use anecdotes, rumors, or emotion, to make my decisions; we have to use real data and rely on the experts. I'm pleased that the city has done this. In fact, the city has gone to the next level, further validating the initial assessment by pursuing a full EIR, which consulted many more experts over most of the last year.

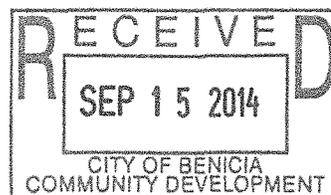
As commissioners, you should feel confident that the city has done everything and more than is necessary to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project. As a citizen of Benicia, I am urging you to move forward to capture the many benefits to the community and environment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Wicklow".

Cameron Wicklow

Benicia Planning Commission Members,



My name is Joe Muehlbauer, I am a Benicia resident, member of the Benicia Community Sustainability Commission, and a Valero employee. I also tutor at Benicia High School through the Valero program that my wife started (she is also a Valero employee). I coach Little League Baseball, and frequent the James Lemos pool for swimming lessons with my kids. Just as you, I am an involved member of this community because I value this community.

The crude by rail project is an investment in our community. It is an investment in our safety and allows the refinery to continue to bring revenue to our police and fire departments which is then used for staffing, state of the art equipment, and training. There have been comparisons made to Mare Island and Vallejo this evening and I offer one more...according to the Times Herald, Vallejo is at the highest crime rate in 27 years with 14 homicides in 2013. Whereas Benicia, with much credit to our police chief and officers, is at the lowest crime level in the past 27 years and hasn't had a homicide since 2011. A strong police department saves lives.

This project is an investment in our environment. As a state, we set a target in 2006 to reduce our GHG emissions to year 2000 levels by 2010. As a city, we took this to heart and developed a climate action plan to achieve the goal. So how are we doing? Not so hot. In accordance with the City of Benicia 2010 GHG Emissions Inventory Report, in that period where the goal was to reduce emissions, Benicia increased its GHG emissions from 487 kMTCO_{2e} to 689 kMTCO_{2e} – a 41% increase. But there is hope, as the experts have verified through the DEIR, the Crude by Rail project reduces emissions by 255 kMTCO_{2e}. If this reduction were applied to Benicia's AB32 target, this single project would allow us to achieve our goal.

The crude by rail project represents an investment in our top-notch school system and the stable housing values that we all enjoy.

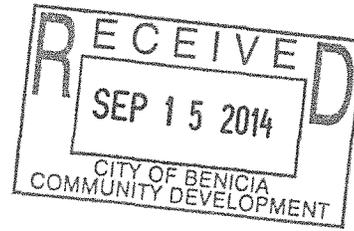
I support this investment in our community.

A concerned citizen,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Muehlbauer".

Joe Muehlbauer

Rebecca Sgambati
3400 East Second St.
Benicia, CA 94510
9/15/14



City of Benicia Planning Commission
C/O Amy Million (amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us)
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear City of Benicia Planning Commission:

I am the Technical Services Director at the Valero Benicia Refinery and a member of the Refinery Leadership Team. I have worked as an Engineer, Manager, and Director at the Refinery for almost my entire 18 year career with the exception of two years spent at Valero Headquarters in San Antonio, TX.

The Valero Crude By Rail Project provides the refinery with crude feedstock flexibility which allows us to remain one of the strongest regional refineries that produce clean burning California fuels.

This project ensures the refinery is able to:

Employ over 450 local workers with over 250 additional contractors. This project will fuel the local economy with an additional 120 construction jobs and another 20 full time jobs upon completion.

In total, Valero's activities create or support 3,900 jobs in the region, creating \$1.6 billion in additional compensation in the region (2006- 2013)

Annually, the direct and indirect employee compensation Valero generates in the region is comparable to Solano County's entire Professional, Scientific and Technical industries combined.

Since 2006, Valero has paid over \$3.0 billion to contractors, with over two-thirds of that to businesses in the region and \$400 million to contractors in Benicia, generating \$4.3 billion in economic activity (2006-2013)

To put this in perspective, these payments to contractors are the equivalent of completing the recent Carquinez Bridge Upgrade fifteen times over!

The Valero Benicia Refinery's various tax contributions represented approximately 25% of Benicia's General Fund in 2013. This \$7.7 million is enough to fully fund the entire Fire Department, the City Council, City Attorney, and City Clerk with hundreds of thousands of dollars left over.

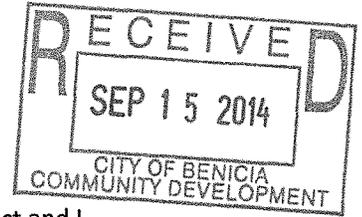
Valero is vested in this community on a charitable level as well donating hundreds of hours to our high school tutoring program and \$13.7 million dollars have been donated to local charities over the last decade, including children's charities and the local food bank (2004-2013).

As commissioners, you should feel confident that the city has done everything and more than is necessary to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project. As a professional in the Refining Industry for over 18 years and an employee of the Benicia Refinery, I urge you to move forward to capture the many benefits to the community and environment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Sgambati".

Rebecca Sgambati



Benicia Planning Commissioners,

First, thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on Valero's Crude by Rail Project and I appreciate you taking the time to read my response. Hopefully you will consider my response when making your decision about this very important project.

My family and I have lived in Benicia almost continuously since 2003. We currently live approximately one mile from Valero. My wife and I have three boys whom all attend the Benicia School System. We live in Benicia, we work in Benicia, we shop in Benicia, and we play in Benicia. Benicia and the families that make up this city are extremely important to us and Valero is a big part of this town. I have reviewed the city's draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for Valero's Crude by Rail Project and based on the city's own assessment that this project has "no significant impact" in Benicia that cannot be mitigated and after careful consideration of all of the impacts listed in the report I feel this is the right project for Valero and the right project for Benicia for the following reasons.

Environmental and Safety Considerations

As per the city's draft environmental impact report, this project will have the following positive impacts in the areas of environment and safety :

1. This project will result in beneficial impacts to air quality in the Bay Area
2. This project will reduce the risk of accidental release by replacing up to 82% of the crude oil currently processed at Valero and delivered through its marine terminal with crude delivered by rail, which is statistically much safer
3. This project will employ safety standards which exceed mandatory compliance measures, including the use of 1232 rail cars instead of DOT-111 legacy cars
4. This project will not significantly change refinery operations, the overall characteristics of the crude it process, or the amount of crude it process, which will allow the refinery to continue to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner

Economic Considerations

The positive economic impact that the Valero Benicia Refinery has on this city cannot be overstated. Valero provides 25% of the city's general fund tax revenue. They are a huge economic driver for this city and region not just as a tax base, but as an economic engine providing hard-to-find manufacturing jobs that pay head-of-household wages. Benicia is very fortunate to have the benefit of the industrial park and the Valero Benicia Refinery is the cornerstone of this area. This project not only allows Benicia the opportunity to protect this economic engine but we are allowing it to grow and provide more head-of-household type jobs and provide more desperately needed tax revenue.

Finally, after review of the city's draft environmental impact report, I believe the city performed an thorough job of exploring all aspects of this project. This project is good for Benicia. I ask that you

please consider the importance of this project to our largest local business and to our town when making a thoughtful, informed decision.

Regards,

Jerry Stumbo

Sept 15, 2015
Clark Driggers

City of Benicia Planning Commission

Valero 3 Rail Project - Yes

Ask the planning commission and the city council to decide this permitting process on a basis of the most factual information available, not vague score tactic generalities.

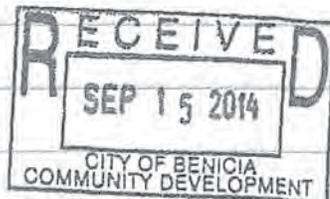
Facts: The railroad would be liable for accidents, mitigation and cleanup.

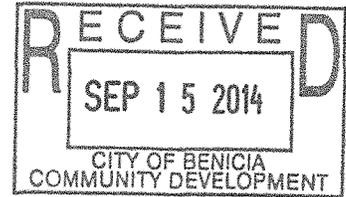
The Valero Benicia Refinery is a Cal/OSHA Voluntary Protection Program Star Site.

Benicia Valero will use D.O.T. - 1232, not D.O.T. - 111 Tank Cars.

Not one of the governmental permitting agencies will be raising emission limits because of this project.

Thank you:
Clark Driggers, a green person, who has lived at 58 Buena Vista 64 years.





September 15, 2014

Honorable members of the Planning Commission,

I am a resident of Benicia, a chemical engineer at the Valero Benicia Refinery & support the findings of the Draft EIR for the Valero Crude By Rail project.

Valero Benicia Refinery has a very strong safety culture, as evidenced by implementation of the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) to enhance refinery and personnel safety.

Valero also is a solid community partner & is very committed to enhance education at Benicia Unified schools. Working with classroom teachers for more than 10 years, I personally have taught Junior Achievement classes (Consumer Economics, America Works, etc.) at Mary Farmer Elementary School, Benicia Middle School and Benicia High School. During this 2014 / 2015 school year, I will be teaching Junior Achievement Consumer Economics at Ms. Wildasin's class at Benicia High School.

In summary, I believe the Draft EIR for the Valero Crude By Rail project addresses the major issues and support its findings. The Valero Benicia Refinery has a strong safety culture & is a solid community partner.

Respectively submitted,

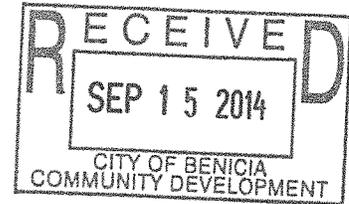
Greg Imazu

Amy Million - Crude By Rail

From: "Adam, Robert" <Bob.Adam@valero.com>
To: "AMillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <AMillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Date: 9/15/2014 4:56 PM
Subject: Crude By Rail

Robert Adam
3400 East Second St.
Benicia, CA 94510
9/15/14

City of Benicia Planning Commission
C/O Amy Million (amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us)
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510



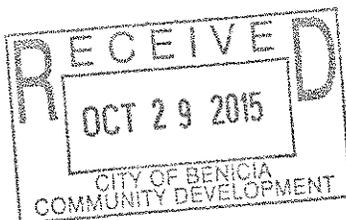
Dear City of Benicia Planning Commission:

I am the Mechanical Engineering Manager at the Valero Benicia Refinery and assuring the safe execution of projects is my top priority each and every day. In my 31 years of engineering and management, 22 years have been in oil refining, leading projects where the selection of the project team was the key to the safe installation and operation of the facility. The team selected to design, construct, and operate the new rail facilities for the Valero Crude By Rail Project are a collection of professionals, experts in their specific field, with track records of completing work safely. Valero's commitment to safety continues after the project is completed. Valero's recent re-certification by Cal-OSHA as a VPP Star Site demonstrates Valero's continuous commitment to safe operation.

You should feel confident that the new facilities will be built and operated to the approved design specifications that meet all regulatory and environmental compliance requirements. I urge you to vote favorably to support the Crude By Rail Project.

Sincerely,

Robert Adam



October 29, 2015

155 Corporate Place
Vallejo, CA 94590
United States of America
Telephone: +1 707 642 2222
Facsimile: +1 707 648 2719

RE: Support of Valero's Crude by Rail Project

TO: Benicia City Leaders

The Revised Draft EIR explained the many positive benefits of this project, including increased safety measures at the state and federal levels and Valero voluntarily upgrading their tank cars ahead of federal regulations. I believe the refinery will continue to operate safely and conscientiously as it has done for many years.

Valero's Crude by Rail Project is beneficial to our community. It reduces global greenhouse gas emissions, will bolster the city's finances and provides stable, high-paying jobs to members of our community. I fully support this project and ask that it be approved to move forward.

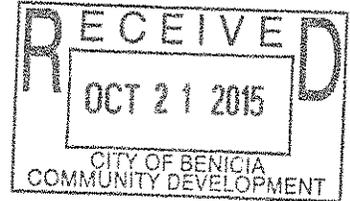
Thank you,

Ernie Abbott,

Account Manager, Transfield Services, Valero Benicia Refinery

Amy Million

From: Bendix, Edward <Ed.Bendix@valero.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Amy Million



Benicia Leaders:

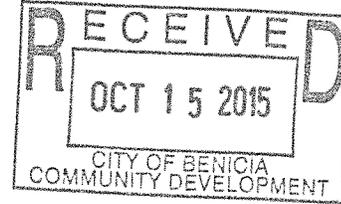
I support Valero's Crude by Rail Project. The DEIR found many benefits of the project, including a reduced likelihood of spill. The RDEIR has identified new rail safety mandates from the state and federal governments, including enhanced standards for both new and existing tank cars, more accurate classification of unrefined petroleum-based products and improved risk assessment and notification for rail routing.

Valero's own fire chief has also detailed at public meetings the many meetings Valero has had with up rail fire stations regarding prevention, preparedness and response.

Nothing in life comes free of risk, and this project is no exception. In this case, the federal and state governments have implemented new safety measures to mitigate those risks. Now is the time to approve the project to move forward. It's good for Benicia.

Thank you,

October 12, 2015



Mr. Brad Kilger, City Manager
Ms. Amy Million, Principal Planner
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Brad and Amy,

With the release of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), Valero's crude by rail project has proven once again to be an economic viable and environmentally sound and sustainable project.

In its various iterations, the DEIR has acknowledged the multitude of agencies that are engaged in regulating transport of crude oil. Since the application, I have read about the numerous additional regulations and fees at the state and the federal levels to improve emergency prevention preparedness and response.

There are numerous preventative measures and procedures in place by not only the local, state and federal governments, but Valerio, too, has a robust safety policy/procedure and lockdown safety program in place. Valerio continues to have one of the most prestigious safety records and has been the only refinery in northern California to be recognized with the VPP Star Site Award for safety and preventative procedures since 2006. Its commitment to mutual aid provides added security that its efforts extend well beyond the refinery's border.

Valero has proven to be interwoven into the Benicia community. It provides over 450 local jobs here in Benicia and over 3,900 in the region. Through taxes paid to the City of Benicia, Valerio contributes 25% of the entire General Fund. Approving this project will only ensure more jobs and more tax revenue to support our beautiful City of Benicia.

The Revised DEIR is comprehensive in its analysis and the benefits of this project extend to all Benicians. I urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

My best,

Heidi A. Benjamin
310 Drake Court
Benicia, CA 94510-1521

Dear Benicia City Officials,

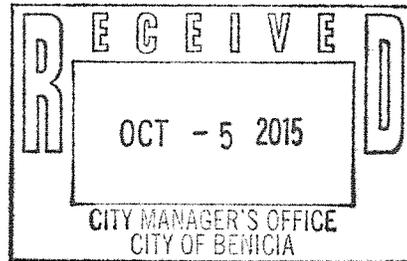
As a Benicia resident for over 50 years, I can say that I support Valero's crude by rail project.

I have worked in the public and private sector through my career. I have even been on the school board and City Council here in Benicia. As someone who has experience working for Valero, I can tell you that they are a true friend to our community. They are like you and me, people living in Benicia. Valero contracts local workers, supports local events, supports 25% of the Benicia city budget and donates millions of dollars to Benicia charities. Valero has been a good neighbor and invested member of our community.

I urge you to approve the crude by rail project Benicia. This project brings more local jobs, tax revenue, and increases economic activity to Benicia and surrounding cities.

Thank you,


Pierre Bidou

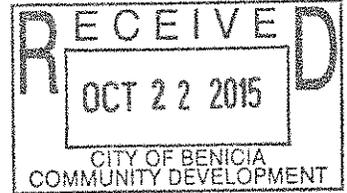


City of Benicia
250 East L. Street
Benicia, CA 94510

October 22, 2015

Attention: Amy Million, Principal Planner

Reference: Valero Crude by Rail Project
Letter IN SUPPORT



Dear Mr. Brad Kilger, Ms. Amy Million and Benicia City Officials,

Valero originally applied for this project in December 2012. This project not only cuts emissions but also promotes job growth in Benicia. The company has been very transparent and opened up their project to the community during this lengthy review process.

According to the RDEIR, not constructing the project would be the least preferred option in regards to global greenhouse gas emissions. This project allows Valero to cut their primary marine transportation method down significantly, in turn significantly reducing related greenhouse gases.

Valero is a major factor in making Benicia the place we as citizens and businesses enjoy. Valero contributes 25% towards the City's General fund, and continues to make many philanthropic donations locally. Their ongoing support for economic growth makes them an extremely valuable asset in keeping the City prosperous.

I would greatly encourage the City to stop delaying this project and **APPROVE** the Valero crude-by-rail expansion.

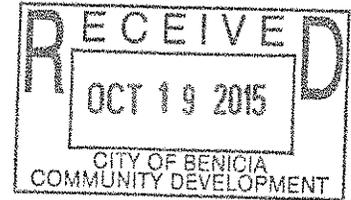
Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Errol Bisutti". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint horizontal line.

Errol Bisutti
Benicia Resident

Amy Million

From: alecbostock@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Amy Million; Brad Kilger
Cc: info@beniciaCBR.com
Subject: Valero Crude by Rail Supporter



This letter is in support of the Valero Crude by Rail Project. I support the project for a number of reasons. I will say, that transporting product and material by railroad has been safe and smooth for over 100-years. The men and women who work for the railroad have an impeccable safety record which shows that their first priority is safety. Here are the reasons why the Valero Crude by Rail Project should be approved for construction:

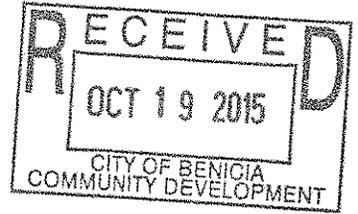
1. Eliminates the chances for an oil spill in the bay.
2. Eliminates buying crude oil from the middle east and supporting terrorism.
3. Eliminates a chance of a ship hitting one of the Bay Area bridges going up and down the bay.
4. It's a safer means of transportation by railroad instead of shipping.
5. Puts people to work.
6. Supports the local economy.
7. Buying and transporting domestic crude in the wave of the future by being independent here in the USA.
8. Valero will be the only refinery to run 100% domestic crude oil and not have to be relying on foreign crude.

These are just a few of the reasons why I and the community should support this project and not stand in the way. Please pass this along to the city of Benicia so a permit to construct can be issued so this project can get started. Have a safe and smooth day.

Thank You,
Alec Bostock = Valero Crude by Rail Supporter.

Amy Million

From: Doug Boyum <dougboyum@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:28 AM
To: Amy Million; Brad Kilger
Cc: info@beniciaCBR.com
Subject: Valero Refinery Crude by Rail "RDEIR" updated in August 2015



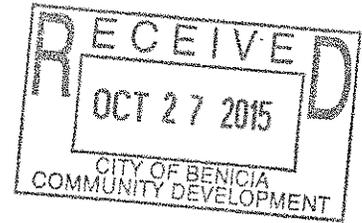
Amy,
After reviewing the 570 page Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report released on 8/31/15, for the proposed Valero Crude by Rail project, I would like to state that I, Douglas A. Boyum, a lifetime resident of the SF Bay Area who works near the Valero refinery in Benicia and who has family residing in the wonderful city of Benicia, support the proposed crude by rail project.

Thank You,

Doug A. Boyum

Amy Million

From: Brad Kilger
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:43 AM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Fwd: Crude By Rail reference



Sent from the Samsung Galaxy Rugby Pro, an AT&T LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Mark <markabrett@yahoo.com>
Date: 10/27/2015 10:57 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Brad Kilger <BKilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Subject: Crude By Rail reference

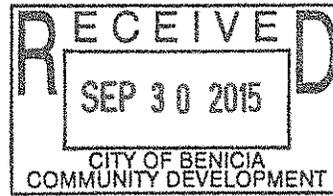
Good morning Mr. Kilger and Benicia city leaders,

I support Valero's Crude by Rail project and ask you to please approve it to move forward. The DEIR found that this project will reduce the likelihood of spill. The DEIR and RDEIR also found that the project will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by replacing transport by ship with transport by rail. Moving crude by rail is an effective and efficient means of transport that will improve air quality.

Valero is an important member of this community and this project is vital to their continued success. Valero's success is Benicia's success, as this project will further increase the jobs, tax revenues and opportunities the refinery offers our community.

Thank you,

Mark Brett
Project Supporter and Benicia tax payer
Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone



Commissioner

We are Gary and Virginia Cady we have lived in Benicia for a very long time. We have seen and experienced the benefit of having Humble/Exxon/Valero in our town.

This evening I attended the Planning Commission meeting on Valero EIR. It occurred to me that Approx. 50 years ago my wife and I were sitting in the same City Council Chambers at a meeting discussing Humble Oil's application to build a refinery here. Many of the same concerns, explosion, fire, smell, air quality, noise etc. were expressed. Now 50 years later none of those concerns have occurred. Benicia is the envy of Solano County and many other cities with a solid tax base.

I suggest that your vote should be on the Valero application not on National rail lines, bomb trains, fossil fuel, Canadian drilling methods etc. The opponents of CBR are attempting to make you responsible for these things which are beyond your realm.

Valero has earned our support and the quarter million dollars plus in new revenue would certainly be a nice bonus.

Thank You

Gary & Virginia Cady
290 Carlisle Way
Benicia

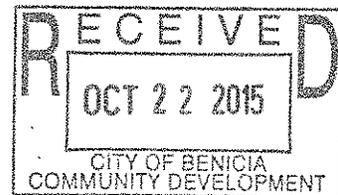
Benicia Leaders:

I am writing in support of Valero's project. The RDEIR explains that this project is actually preferred over the "no project" option in regard to air emissions because it will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

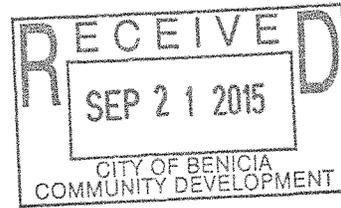
Specifically, the RDEIR identifies a significant, 225,000 ton annual reduction in greenhouse gases that will result from this project when compared to current marine delivery. This project is beneficial to air quality.

I support this project and urge you to please approve it to move forward without further delay.

Thank you,



Brad Kilger, City Manager
Amy Million, Principal Planner
City of Benicia
250 East L St
Benicia, CA 94510



Re: Valero Crude by Rail Project

Dear Mr Kilger and Ms Million

I am a Benicia resident and have lived and worked in Benicia for the past 45 years. My children and grandchildren were raised here and have attended Benicia schools. We greatly enjoy the small-town, family-friendly atmosphere of Benicia. We enjoy the City Parks, Recreational areas, Water front, Public Library, Public Schools and the great infrastructure of the City which has been made possible in large part by the tremendous tax base and philanthropic efforts of Valero. I am also the Director of a local Camp and Mentoring program for Foster Kids which Valero has generously supported for the past 10 years. All Benicia citizens have benefited directly and indirectly from the great financial support, tax base and philanthropic generosity of Valero.

After reading the Revised DEIR, I still support the Valero Crude by Rail Project.

The report clearly indicates that the Crude by Rail Project:

- 1) Will provide a net reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions with a regional and global benefit as well as Benicia,
- 2) Will result in no significant Environmental Quality impact for Benicia and California including refinery emissions, rail safety, noise and traffic,
- 3) Will significantly boost the local and regional economy by
 - creating 20 full-time, good paying jobs and 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction
 - generating millions in tax revenue, wages and economic benefits to Benicia and the State.

Further, the Crude By Rail Project:

- 1) Will NOT increase the amount of Crude Oil that could be processed at the Refinery
- 2) Will NOT involve any changes to existing Refinery Processing Facilities
- 3) Will NOT result in any changes to the Emissions limits set forth in the Refinery's current BAAQMD permit

The concerns of the Opponents to Valero's CBR Project focus on Rail Safety, OUTSIDE of Benicia. The City has gone WELL beyond what the law requires to have the opponents concerns addressed. In fact the focus of the Revised DEIR is to highlight the recent North America Rail incidents, and to inform the Public of what the Federal Government has done to address Rail Safety and improve Railroad Safety Standards. It also highlights the improvements that Union Pacific Railroad has undertaken to meet and exceed these federal standards.

Valero is diligently working to ensure they stay competitive in this commodity market, while at the same time creating as little impact to Benicia residents and businesses as possible.

Valero first submitted the application for this project back in 2012. In May, 2013, the City issued a Notice of Intent to Adopt an initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. Following a Public Meeting in July, 2013, the City called for an EIR, and then committed to issue that report in the Fall of 2013. The actual Draft of the EIR, was not circulated until June of 2014 ! Since then, there has been MANY public hearings, many public forums, comments, more revisions, more public forums, more revisions and finally, in August, 2015, the formal Revised Draft EIR was issued (and multiple Public Hearings have been scheduled).

Although I applaud the City's efforts to provide information to the vocal Opposition of the Project, you have more than fulfilled your legal requirement. *You are all well aware of Federal Preemption, and that CEQA review of rail operations is preempted by federal law.*

The Valero Benicia Refinery is one of most advanced refineries in the nation, and has a commendable safety record. This project will allow Valero to stay competitive and continue doing what the refinery was designed to do - - to be one of the safest and most environmentally friendly refiners of crude oil in the US.

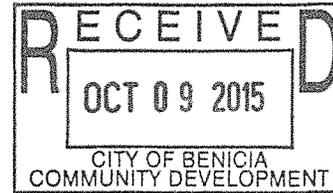
It's time for you to act. I strongly urge you to accept the DEIR as final, and I urge you to endorse the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

Thank you,



Dale Cross
472 Panorama Dr
Benicia, CA

Brad Kilger, City Manager
Amy Million, Principal Planner
City of Benicia
250 East L St
Benicia, CA 94510



Re: Valero Crude by Rail Project

Dear Mr Kilger and Ms Million

My name is Dale Cross, and I am a resident of Benicia.
Most of my adult life I've lived, worked and maintained a residence in Benicia.
I actively support community projects, Children's programs and Humanitarian programs,
and have participated on many Committees to improve the quality of life in Benicia.

I am an Active citizen of Benicia, and I care deeply for the community.
I believe that Benicia is one of America's Best Places to Live.
AND, I want to see the Quality of Life in Benicia maintained and improved. . . for our generation, our
grandkids generation, and for future generations to come.

During my time in Benicia, I have become friendly and friends with people on both sides of the fence on
the Valero Crude by Rail Project.

After chatting with my friends on both sides of the Valero CBR project, I have found that we ALL have a
lot in common with regards to the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

All of these good citizens of Benicia agree on the following:

- 1) We are all concerned about Rail Safety
- 2) We all have a Common Goal of ZERO Rail Incidents
- 3) We all believe that the Federal Government rail standards need improvement
- 4) We all want the Benicia Environment and City Services & Infrastructure to move forward and
Not backward
- 5) AND, We all agree that this Review Process has gone on entirely too long.

Where we differ is in our approach to obtain these goals.

One approach advocates ZERO Rail movement to Benicia as a way to obtain Zero Rail incidents.
While this approach would reduce rail movements to Benicia, it will NOT impact crude by rail movement
throughout the California and US. And, shutting down rail movements to Benicia will not reduce the
probability of Rail incidents in the US. Rail movement of crude oil is happening and will continue to
happen in California as well as the rest of the US.

The RDEIR does inform the Public of State and Federal Rail Safety Standard improvements, and there
have been significant changes. AND the government is continuing to pursue rail safety improvements.
HOWEVER, the City of Benicia is limited as to what they can require the Federal and State governments
to do with rail safety standards because of this thing called "Federal Preemption".

There is another approach that can have a significantly greater impact on improving Rail Safety.

If the goal is to drastically improve Rail Safety, throughout California and the US, then the best approach is to allow Valero to utilize their considerable Safety Culture to influence the Federal Rail Safety Standards.

Valero is already committed to pay \$1.66 Million per year at the CBR Project design rate to help fund the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response for prevention, emergency response preparedness and cleanup enforcement measures (6.5 cents/barrel at the CBR Design rate of 70,000 barrels per day). This fact has gotten essentially NO press, but shows that Valero is a Company that cares about incident response and prevention.

Let me just highlight a few other items that Valero's Safety Culture has brought to Benicia since acquiring the Benicia Refinery:

- Environmental Safety: drastically improved NOx & Sox emissions with the Flue Gas Scrubber project.
- Invited OSHA in to review their Safety Program and Culture: Became VPP Star Site
- Unprecedented Personnel Safety: 1250 Days, over 3MM workhours without a lost time incident.

With this Safety Culture, there isn't a better company in the US to influence the Federal Government on Rail Safety - - Not just in Benicia, But throughout California and the US.

The CBR Project does not give Valero a Competitive advantage.

Many other major Oil Refiners are already moving crude by rail into California - and into the SF Bay Area ! This project does allow Valero to remain competitive.

We've heard about Valero's tremendous employee Volunteerism, and their unprecedented financial support for local programs, education and charities.

And we are all aware of the tremendous tax base for the City.

Valero is a great Corporate and Community friendly leader.

The Valero Benicia Refinery is one of most advanced refineries in the nation, and has an exceptional safety record. This project will allow Valero to stay competitive and continue doing what the refinery was designed to do - - to be one of the safest and most environmentally friendly refiners of crude oil in the US.

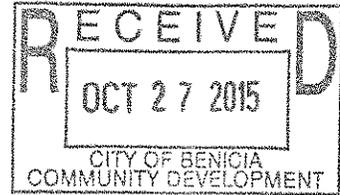
It's time for you to act.

I strongly urge you to accept the DEIR as final, and I urge you to endorse the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

Thank you,



Dale Cross
472 Panorama Dr
Benicia, CA



Elizabeth Crowley

481 Arguello Drive
Benicia, CA 94510
October 20, 2015

▶ **City of Benicia Planning Commissioners**

250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510
Attn: Amy Million

Dear Ms. Million,

The beauty of the Bay Area is varied and complex and I have enjoyed it during my 28 years working and living here. I supported the Crude By Rail (CBR) project since its proposal because it improves national security, national energy independence, and economic sustainability of Bay Area and Northern California businesses.

I am an Environmental Health and Safety Professional with over 25 years experience, seven years as an environmental consultant for clients who are leaders in building and manufacturing.

My seven years as the Manager of Environmental, Health and Safety for C&H Sugar in Crockett (the bayside neighbor to Benicia) provided me with and in depth understanding of the dynamics of a small town with a big industrial resident.

I am an environmental engineer who maintains several environmental professional certifications (Registered Environmental Property Assessor, Hazardous Waste Emergency Response Operator, Certified Environmental and Safety Compliance Officer). I have worked in Benicia for eight years and have followed the CBR project closely for a few years. My education and experience tells me that Benicia enjoys a well-balanced mix of residential, commercial and industry that work together to for a friendly, safe and vital community, which is why my husband and I purchased a home in Benicia this year..

My informed assessment of the CBR project is that it has been thoroughly and carefully developed by experienced and qualified professionals. The project does not change how the refinery operates, it very simply allows the refinery the flexibility to transport its raw product

Commission will continue to educate itself about the legal terms used within the process. That said, I appreciate that the additional investigation into up-rail operations points to well coordinated prevention and response plans that highlight the improvements this project will bring to the California Rail system.

The rail system is essential to national economy and projects like the Crude by Rail serve to review, refresh and upgrade this important national asset.

The benefit this entire process is that the City of Benicia and its citizens have participated in the dialogue to make the nation safer with improved rail cars, improved inspections, management and prevention/response planning.

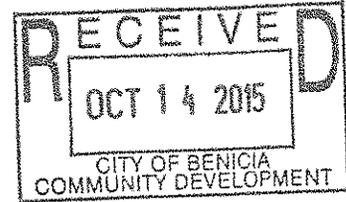
I respectfully urge the Benicia Planning Commission and the City Council to **Certify the finalized EIR and approve Valero's proposed project.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Crowley". The signature is written in black ink and extends across the width of the page.

Elizabeth Crowley
Benicia Resident

Herbert J. Forthuber
1477 W 2nd St.
Benicia, CA 94510



October 13, 2015

Dear Benicia City Officials,

Being a resident and local business manager, I have been following the Valero crude by rail project since it was first introduced. After looking at the recently released RDEIR from the City, the choice is still a very clear one for Benicia. Approve Valero's crude by rail project. Please consider the facts and not the hyperbole offered by the anti CBR advocates.

One of the benefits noted by the RDEIR is the reduction of greenhouse gasses and improvement to air quality. Constructing the crude by rail project will allow Valero to access a formerly unavailable domestic source of crude oil. In doing so, it prompts less use of waterborne transportation, which have comparatively large emission rates. The rail addition effectively cuts emissions of the refining process.

Valero has proven to be an essential part of the Benicia community. The refinery supports over 450 local jobs and 3,900+ jobs in the region as a result of their operations. This positive economic impact on Benicia has allowed for multiple excellent restaurants and retail shops in downtown Benicia. Many of the local businesses in the Industrial Park rely heavily on the support work provided to the Valero refinery. Speaking as a business manager, Valero is our largest customer. Conhagen supports 25 good jobs in Benicia. Without Valero, we do not know if we could continue to be a viable business in Benicia.

Valero and Valero employees are also involved in their community. Valero and their employees have donated millions of dollars and spent thousands of hours for local charities in Benicia. They actively participate in local events and even provide a tutoring program for Benicia High School. The success of the Benicia economy and safety of the individuals who reside here are as important to Valero as they are to any member of the Benicia community.

They have gone out of their way to show they take the concerns of the community seriously. I urge you to approve the crude by rail project. Continuing to stand in the way of this project is a disservice to Benicia.

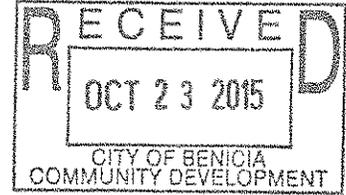
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert J. Forthuber".

Herbert J. Forthuber

Amy Million

From: Stacey Hayward <stacey77@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 10:46 AM
To: Brad Kilger; Amy Million
Subject: Valero crude by rail



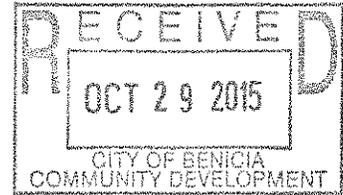
October 23, 2015

Dear Benicia Planning Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Valero's crude by rail project. In the RDEIR, Valero and UPRR have agreed to a number of voluntary rail safety measures in addition to the many that have been implemented at both the federal and state levels since Valero applied for this project. Given these new regulations, and the fact that rail transportation is an issue that is preempted by federal law, I urge the city to approve this project and move forward without further delay.

Thank you,

Stacey Fortner
158 Banbury Ct, Benicia



Benicia City Leaders:

I want to express my support for Valero's crude by rail project. As a refinery employee and supervisor, I can attest to the strong prevention, preparedness and response measures in place as well as the significant emphasis on safety that guides everything that we do. While I appreciate the need for thorough analysis, we have let the NIMBY or "Not In My Backyard" folks go on for long enough. It's time to move forward with a project that is good for Benicia.

Thank you,
David Frank

10-6-15

Dear Benicia City Officials,

The RDEIR affirms that crude delivery by rail can be done safely. Since Valero first applied for a permit in 2012, the federal and state government have enacted extensive additional rail safety regulations that will increase the safety of this project. These regulations, coupled with Valero and Union Pacific Railroad's commitment to exceed federal standards, will ensure that this project is operated safely while simultaneously affording the refinery access to landlocked North American crude.

This project will not increase the amount of crude oil the refinery processes. Rather, it will simply offset some of the crude currently being delivered by marine vessel and/or pipeline with crude delivered by rail. Presently, the Refinery's primary crude supplies come from the California San Joaquin Valley, Alaska and foreign sources. By allowing the refinery to transport crude by rail, you are affording them the opportunity to access crude from North America that is currently inaccessible by ship. This will effectively decrease our reliance on foreign oil and help America's efforts to achieve energy independence from foreign – and often unstable and unfriendly – regions in the world.

Reducing energy dependency is vital to our country's safety and economic stability. In the 1970s, the "OPEC" countries almost brought this country to its knees. Technology has allowed us to become more in control of access to these resources and we should embrace that, especially since it will help Valero to remain competitive in this shifting marketplace.

Valero Refinery leadership and employees are people just like you and I. They care about this town and they care about doing their jobs responsibly.

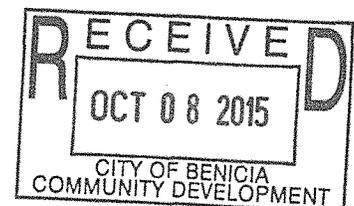
This company has won an especially prestigious safety award not just once, but three times! Other oil companies would love to have just one of those awards.

Let's look at some of the residual benefits that Valero and the implementation of this crude by rail project would bring to our town:

1. Creates 20 full time good paying jobs. Benicia needs these jobs. It will also require 120 skilled craftsman jobs during the construction phase.
2. Generates an additional \$360,000 a year in vital tax revenues for the city.
3. Allows us to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This is vital!
4. Ensuring the city can continue to provide vital services. Valero pays 25% of our General Fund. If Valero is out of the picture, we would need to find some other source to help pay for essential services.
5. In the last decade, Valero and its employees have donated 13.7 million dollars to local charities. These are good citizens.

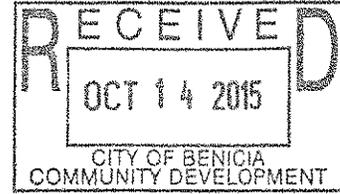
Valero is a responsible, safety oriented company, and we are fortunate to have them as a good corporate neighbor and partner! I urge you to vote to approve this project!

Sincerely,
Larry Fullington



Amy Million

From: Charles M Graham <charlesgraham08@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 5:30 PM
To: Amy Million; Brad Kilger
Subject: Valero Project Support



Dear City Leaders:

As a resident of Benicia I wish to express my continued support for the Valero Crude By Rail Infrastructure Project.

The findings in the RDEIR reaffirm the reasons I am supportive of Valero:

- * Valero makes a significant financial contribution and shows great support for the City of Benicia.
- * The success of Valero is very important to our community and we need to support this project as it is vital to the refinery's ability to remain competitive.
- * This project not only creates good jobs; it makes good business sense for Valero which in turn makes sense for Benicia.
- * The success of the Valero refinery in Benicia has a direct impact on the success of Benicia as a financially stable City.

Valero contributes tremendously to what makes Benicia such a wonderful place to live with its significant charitable contributions – both financially and through volunteer hours – and tax revenue, which funds vital city services.

Valero is our partner and we need to support this project!

Regards,

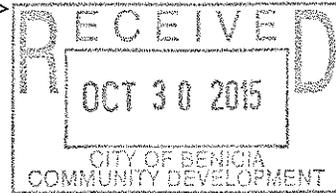
Charles M Graham

678 Addison Ct

Benicia, CA 94510

Amy Million

From: Susan Gustofson <susan.gustofson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Crude by Rail RDEIR Comments



Dear Ms. Million and Benicia Planning Commission:

I support the Revised Draft Environmental Report (RDEIR) and Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project. The City of Benicia and independent experts have spent nearly three years closely examining this project and developing a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Report and RDEIR that go well beyond what CEQA traditionally requires. It illustrates the many benefits for Benicia, for the Bay Area, and for America.

The federal government manages the safe transport of all commodities by rail. Their actions continue to demonstrate that they are serious about maintaining safe rail transport. They have created and amended regulations and issued immediate safety orders to maintain safe rail transport based on facts and research. The State of California also recently passed a bill to enhance emergency preparedness and coordination between agencies that improves response to events of all kinds if they should occur. These actions are much broader and provide more impact than any local action could achieve.

I also believe that UPRR is serious about safety with the goods they transport on the rails. They have a high safety standards as a company, and have higher standards than governmental agencies for design and inspections for the facilities they own and operate.

According the DEIR and RDEIR, this project will NOT:

- Create additional health risks associated with project emissions.
- Increase the amount of crude that can be processed.
- Change the type of crude the refinery processes.
- Increase process emissions.
- Change refinery operations.

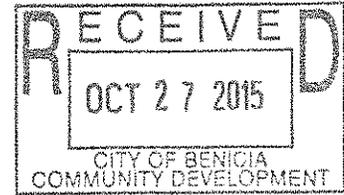
The reasons listed above are among the many reasons I continue to support Valero's Crude by Rail project. The Valero Benicia Refinery is a good neighbor to the community, a leader in industrial safety, a top employer and major benefactor to our region. It is also one of only two refineries in the state recognized by Cal/OSHA for its exemplary safety performance. Since 2006 the Benicia Refinery has continuously earned the VPP STAR Site designation for going above and beyond Cal/OSHA safety standards. Please consider the facts and approve this worthy project without further delay. I reside in Martinez, work for the Benicia Refinery, and am involved with this project. I am submitting my comments as an individual of my own volition.

Respectfully,

Susan Gustofson
Martinez, California

Amy Million

From: Judi Hayward <jhayward@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 6:49 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Valero crude by rail project



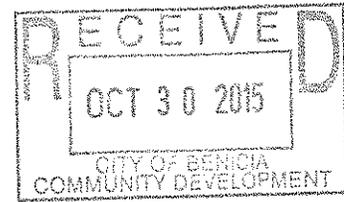
Benicia Planning Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Valero's crude by rail project. In the RDEIR, Valero and UPRR have agreed to a number of voluntary rail safety measures in addition to the many that have been implemented at both the federal and state levels since Valero applied for this project. Given these new regulations, and the fact that rail transportation is an issue that is preempted by federal law, I urge the city to approve this project and move forward without further delay.

Thank you,
Bob and Judi Hayward

Amy Million

From: Susan Jones <asjones07@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:40 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Support for Valero's Crude by Rail Project



Dear Ms. Amy Million,

Please count us as Benicia residents and environmentally-minded folks who are strong supporters of the Valero Crude by Rail Project.

When we moved to Benicia in 2002, we knew it was a refinery town, so we fully expected activities related to transporting crude oil and refined products in and around the community. We also expected other activities related to the other businesses of Benicia and the surrounding area, because the town is nested near a major waterway, a railroad, two freeways and an industrial park.

We would venture a guess that many materials classified as hazardous are safely transported and/or stored in the vicinity of Benicia every day by law abiding businesses, like Valero.

Knowing that business activities in California are highly regulated, with a keen eye on safety and public health, we are not at all concerned that Valero's project calls for a third method of delivery of its crude. (The other two are pipeline and ships) In fact, transporting crude by train will reduce greenhouse gas emissions when compared to shipping the crude from across the seas.

It is important to note that Valero is not increasing its production, rather it simply wants flexibility in how crude is delivered to its facility.

Valero is in the business of managing risks every day to produce the fuels that keep this great city and its people moving forward, and they manage this quite well. This is demonstrated by the recognition that Cal/OSHA has awarded the refinery for its focus on safety.

Please, don't hamstring Valero and other businesses from providing for Benicia's economic recovery. The city, schools and citizens like us depend on a strong business community.

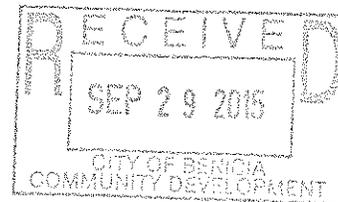
It's time to accept the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report and approve Valero's request for a Use Permit. It's time to support our business community.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Addison Jones
ASJones07@Yahoo.com

Amy Million

From: Sue Kleiman <suzykleiman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Brad Kilger; Amy Million
Subject: I Sill Support Valerio's Crude By Rail project



Dear Brad Kilger and Amy Million,

I continue to support this project, as the recent General Fund 10-Year Forecast

shows that Benicia needs to support infrastructure development to ensure our

economic future.

The reasonable concerns have been addressed, again and again.

Valero's project will create jobs, continued tax revenue for the city, and continue

Americas drive towards energy independence.

It is vital that we look at the big picture for our community and our country when making decisions about the future,

and in my opinion, the benefits of this project far, far outweigh the risks.

There is really no good reason left not to support this project. It has been studied to death over the last several years.

The serious concerns have all been addressed adequately, more than once.

As you know, there are some people who would never approve, no matter what the logic. These people just throw up roadblock after roadblock, delaying tactics after delaying tactic.

They are not honest people of goodwill.

There are some people who still think think the world is flat.

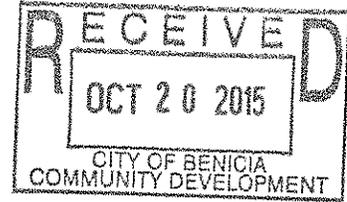
Thank goodness there are still logical people of good will, who move forward, with or without them.

Thank you,

Suzanne Kleiman
Benicia resident



October 20, 2015



Hello,

I am writing as a Benicia resident to express my continued support for Valero's CBR project. This project will benefit our community in a variety of ways and I believe we need to approve it without continuing to delay. It only hurts our community.

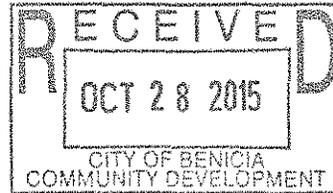
The project will help ensure Valero's viability as a tremendous job provider and source of economic activity locally, for the county and statewide, where the industry directly or indirectly employs more than 300,000 people.

The DEIR found that the project will have many benefits. The recirculated DEIR affirmed those findings and highlighted that additional safety measures have been put into place – a win/win for Benicians. The project has complied with all Environmental Quality Act requirements and anyone who lives in Benicia knows what a responsible company and good neighbor Valero is. They are committed to safety and to this community.

Please take the necessary steps to approve this project so that our community can start to benefit from the CBR project's positive impacts.

Please join me in advocating for the swift approval of the CBR project.

Sincerely,
Desiree La Bar



Dear Benicia Officials,

As a resident of Benicia and someone who has raised their family in this community, I share the concern to ensure Benicia remains a safe, clean and healthy community. I have a master degree in Environment Management and have worked in the environmental field for almost 30 years. The last 10 years of my career I have spent working as an environmental engineer for Valero.

We have an enormous responsibility to operate a petroleum refinery in the San Francisco Bay estuary, one of the world's most ecologically complex waterways. I am one of two dozen environmental health & safety staff at Valero who's sole responsibility is to ensure that the refinery manages its business in an environmentally sound manner and with no harm to our employees and the people of our community.

Our corporate culture emphasizes community involvement, safety performance and strong environmental stewardship. In fact, only Valero facilities in California have been awarded the VPP Star Site recognition for exceeding Cal/OSHA standards for safety and preparedness procedures.

When looking at the RDEIR produced by the city, it can be seen that Benicia has both direct and indirect benefits from constructing the Valero crude by rail project. Implementing this project would create 120 construction and 20 permanent local jobs. The crude by rail project would increase economic activity in Benicia and help provide more to the tax base for the City to provide essential services to the community. Environmentally, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly and increase overall air quality of the bay area.

There are many who believe that the only tolerable risk is zero-risk; however nothing comes with zero-risk in life. There are so many things in everyday life that come with an associated amount of risk. For example, using power tools or storing chemicals and cleaners in the house, there is always the risk of an accident or a child gaining access to the chemicals. We do not simply go without using these things, rather, we mitigate the risks to the best of our abilities. Though many things come with risk, Valero has gone above and beyond to mitigate the associated risk with their project to the best of their ability.

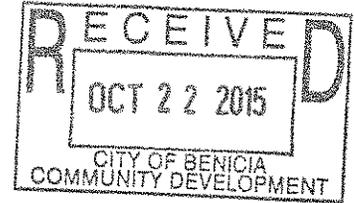
As a Benicia resident, it is important to see local job and economic growth without harming the environment. With that said, I fully support this project and urge you to approve Valero's crude by rail proposal.

Thank you,
John Lazorik

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lazorik" followed by the date "10/27/15".

Amy Million

From: williamlee190@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 9:15 PM
To: Brad Kilger; Amy Million
Subject: Crude By Rail



Benicia City Leaders:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. I support Valero's request to begin transporting crude by rail. This transportation method will allow the refinery access to landlocked North American crude, thereby reducing our imports from foreign countries and helping us to achieve energy independence.

This project will also replace transport by marine vessel with transport by rail, which will reduce global greenhouse gases. This is beneficial for our environment.

I urge you to approve this project without further delay.

Thank you,

Amy Million

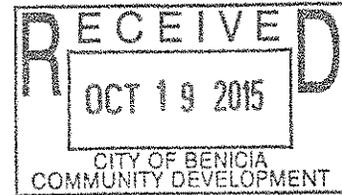
From: Paul Leimone <paulleimone@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 9:01 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Crude by rail

As a retired fire fighter I support crude by rail. There are already a lot of toxic and volatile chemicals being transported by rail everyday. Transporting crude oil by rail is not going to be as hazardous as shipping propane, butane and other toxic chemicals.

I feel it is much more important to use crude from this country or Canada because it keeps money here and doesn't send it to countries that have a religious belief system that wants to eliminate our way of life.

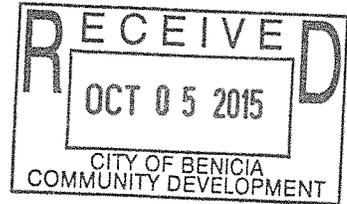
Thank you,

Paul and Lois Leimone
675 Daffodil Drive
Benicia, CA



Amy Million

From: Dennis Lewis <lewylewy@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2015 12:08 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Valero project



Dear Amy, my name is Dennis Lewis and I am writing to voice my approval of the Valero project. I was born and raised in Benicia, was a member of the Benicia Volunteer Fire Department and worked for the city at the Wastewater Plant until retirement. I was here when the Arsenal moved out and left the city in dire straits. The Police Department had to buy used cars from the CHP to replace their broken down cars and the Fire Department had to patch their equipment with the skills of the Volunteers, many of them who worked at Yuba Mfg. Humble Oil came in and gave the city a sorely needed shot in the arm. I have worked at times at the refinery, when it was Exxon, and have been impressed in it's safety and community involvement. I have heard the horror stories of the train wrecks back east and I am not swayed by the concerns because a lot of the trains were exceeding speed limits. I've seen trains coming and going through the Industrial Park and have observed very slow trains, especially after waiting for them at Park and Bayshore Roads for what seems like an eternity. I read a letter in the Vallejo paper from a resident of Berkeley protesting against the project and thought that person has no business interjecting their thoughts in our towns business. It is my belief the planning commission will not listen to non-residents viewpoints and do the right thing and vote in favor of this project. I believe it is in the right interests of Benicia's welfare. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to voice my approval, Best Regards, Dennis Lewis

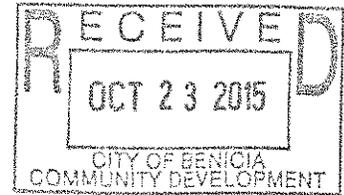
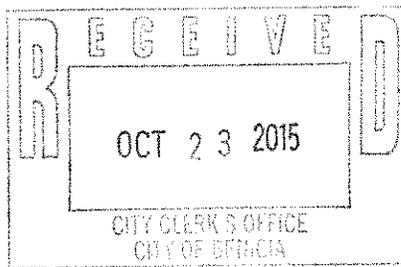
October 23, 2015

DENNIS L. LOWRY

828 ROSE DRIVE • BENICIA, CA • 94510

PHONE: 707-746-1285 • CELL: 707-246-2686

EMAIL: DENNIS.LOWRY@COMCAST.NET



City of Benicia Brad Kilger - City Manager
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

RE: Support of Valero Crude by Rail Project

I am writing this letter to serve two purposes; the first is to convey my support for the Valero Crude by Rail in the strongest possible terms. The second is to express my disappointment in the totally unprofessional way the City has treated Valero regarding this request and to provide my suggestions on how a fair and balanced decision can be reached.

Valero has complied with all reasonable and unreasonable requests in their efforts to obtain the necessary approvals for this project, without exception, this project is extremely good for Benicia in the following ways:

- It increases the value of Valero resulting in more tax revenue for the City.
- It creates 20 new regular full time jobs in addition to the hundreds of temporary jobs resulting in increased revenue to the City and the small businesses that support the industrial park.
- It commits significant capital (\$1.6 million) in annual funding to increasing the preparedness of Oil Spill Prevention and Response for any inland spills well outside the footprint of the refinery.
- It operates well above the standards set by the Federal, State and Local authorities regarding air quality, rail procedure and safety.
- The project reduces the total greenhouse gas emissions from marine transport helping Benicia and California achieve its climate goals.

The City of Benicia, City Staff, the Planning Commission and the City Council and many others outside of Benicia have used every possible tactic to delay this project. I have often stated that "delay is the worst form of denial" mainly because if the project were to be denied approval then the applicant has numerous options with which to pursue a more satisfactory remedy. It is my opinion that there are a significant number of decision makers within the City hierarchy that are opposed to this request not on its merits but because it is in conflict with their personal ideologies. I think it is very important for the City at all levels take a giant step back and address this request on its merits in a way that will avoid costly litigation. I believe this can be accomplished by doing the following:

- Identify those decision makers who are unable to separate their role in rendering a fair and balanced decision from adhering to their personal ideological beliefs thereby rendering an unbalanced decision. Those unable or unwilling to do so are in violation of their oath of office and demanding that they recuse themselves from the decision process is the only option to avoid litigation.
- Recognize the request for what it really is, a request to build railroad track sidings with a means to offload railroad tankers, The original EIR proved there were no appreciable impacts to the environment making the request an easy one to approve,
- Confirm to all City Staff, Committees and Council that the City's Scope of Authority (jurisdiction) resides within the boundaries of this City and one cannot take under consideration those factors outside this City as reasons for denying this request,

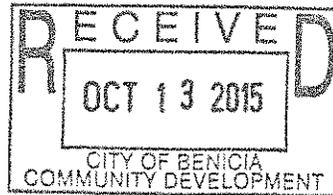
- Understand that the preponderance of respondents against this request cite issues and concerns outside the jurisdiction of the City of Benicia. While some claims/concerns are important to understand and remedy it must be done some authority other than the City of Benicia. However, none of them are of the nature to impact the decision of the Planning Commission or the City Council.
- Recognize that Valero has made an application based on a business case that may or may not come to reality, There are other agencies at the Area, County, State and National levels that have authority to regulate air quality, water quality, rail safety and interstate transport that may support or impede the success of Valero's business case, It is not Benicia's role to listen to or try to enforce its will on these agencies.
- Understand that Valero is a business whose success depends on its ability to be profitable. The business case was written 2-3 or more years ago when the price of crude was above \$100 a barrel. A barrel is now selling for \$45+ causing many providers to stop operations until the price is above \$80. That fact may or may not have an impact on whether crude is actually delivered to Valero by rail. Regardless, it should not be a factor impacting this decision.
- Whether a decision is made to approve or deny this request, I recommend that significant steps be taken to document what the City has done to ensure an impartial decision was reached and enumerate each of the reasons for the positive or negative vote in a way that will be helpful in litigation.

It is time for a decision to be made without any rationale for delay. Valero is an outstanding member of the Benicia community and deserves the dignity and respect to which it is entitled. It is my hope the project will be approved without further delay. I request that a copy of this letter be provided to the Planning Commission.



Dennis Lowry

cc: City Council, City Attorney, Valero



October 10, 2015

City Officials,

After reviewing the initial environmental impact report as well as the recirculated drafts, the facts remain the same: this project will reduce emissions, improve air quality, lessen our dependence on foreign oil, create jobs and increase economic activity in Benicia.

Switching to a more rail-oriented delivery system has large impacts on the pollution associated in the refining process. Constructing this project would cut marine deliveries up to 82% therefore comparatively transporting by rail would severely cut emissions and improve air quality as stated in the RDEIR. I am impressed that companies like Valero are moving forward to implement environmentally responsible solutions while attempting to use domestic fuel sources and become more energy independent.

I agree with the majority of Benicians and believe Valero's crude by rail project should be approved. Thank you for considering my endorsement when reviewing this project.

Sincerely,

George Maichel

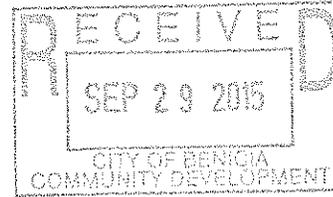
374 McAllister Dr
Benicia, CA

707 315 0289

P.S. I live less than 1/2 mi
from refinery.

September 29, 2015

Members of the Planning Commission
City of Benicia
Benicia CA 94510



Dear Members of the Commission,

As a resident of Benicia for over 35 years, I'd like to express my support for the Valero crude by rail project.

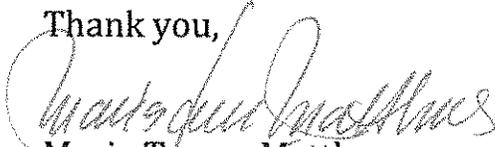
It is evident that Valero has complied with all City requirements and information asked of them. In my opinion they have been transparent to the community and have answered the citizens' questions through print and community informational meetings.

Valero has proven to be a responsible company with an outstanding safety record. The Benicia refinery is the only one of the refineries to have received the VPP Star Site recognition for preparedness and prevention procedures surpassing Cal/OSHA standards.

The City hired independent experts to analyze this project through Environmental Impact Reports. Based on their findings, the recently issued Revised Report and the previous versions state this project would reduce air emissions and generate local economic activity in Benicia.

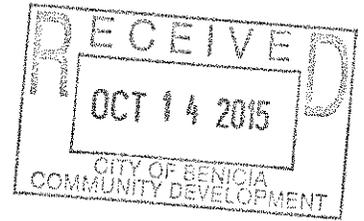
I ask you to look only at facts and approve Valero's request.

Thank you,


Maria Teresa Matthews
575 Cooper Drive

Amy Million

From: Paul Modjesky <modjesky@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Crude by rail



Dear Benicia Officials,

I'd like to take a moment to reaffirm my sentiments during the initial comment period on the Draft EIR for Valero's proposed project.

I support more local jobs.

I support more local construction projects.

I support continued investment in Benicia's business park.

I support significant tax revenues that fund vital city services.

I support a company that makes giving back to the Benicia community an integral part of its business model.

I support the continued refining of American oil and the reduced dependence on foreign oil it provides.

I support Valero in its request to expand the capacity within its property to allow for transporting domestic crude by rail.

Thank you,

Paul Modjesky

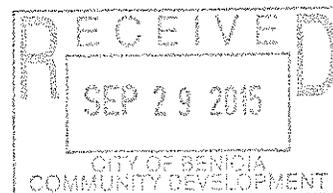
Amy Million

From: djniekamp@gmail.com on behalf of David Niekamp <david@davcoproperties.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Valero Rail Project

Please approve this project. It makes total sense to use US crude instead of foreign crude and they can train the oil in safely.

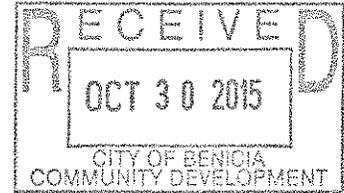
Let's keep Valero in Benicia for the taxes and jobs they generate. Don't work with them and see long term they will become uncompetitive and it will shut down.

David



Amy Million

From: Marisol Mendez <marisol.mendez54@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:00 AM
To: Amy Million
Subject: I Support the Valero Crude by Rail Project
Attachments: 10-30-15_Support to Benicia CBR.docx



Hello Amy:

Find attached my letter in support of the Valero Crude by Rail Project.

Thank you and the Planning Commission for this opportunity.

Best Regards,

Marisol Pacheco-Mendez
404 Dalton Court, Benicia, CA 94510

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Pacheco-Mendez, Marisol" <Marisol.Pacheco-Mendez@valero.com>
Date: Oct 30, 2015 8:52 AM
Subject: Support to CBR Project
To: "Marisol Mendez" <Marisol.Mendez54@gmail.com>
Cc:

Subject: I support the Valero Crude by Rail Project

I am writing to express my support for the Revised Draft Environmental Report (RDEIR) and for Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project. The City of Benicia and independent experts have spent nearly three years closely examining this project and developing a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Report and RDEIR. These analyses go well beyond California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and illustrate the project's many benefits for Benicia.

According to the City's DEIR, RDEIR and economic analysis, this project will:

- Meet or exceed all federal standards regarding rail procedure and safety, including the extensive additional regulations now in place at the federal and state levels since Valero initially applied for the project in 2012.

- Create 20 permanent, local, well-paying jobs and require an additional 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction.

- Improve air quality and help California and the Bay Area achieve its climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 225,000 metric tons per year. Which I mentioned before in previously submitted comments.

- Operate under current air permits with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

- Provide \$1.6 million in annual funding to the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response for inland spill preparedness.

- Provide an additional \$30,000 a month in property tax revenues to the City of Benicia to fund vital city services.

According the DEIR and RDEIR, this project will NOT:

- Create additional health risks associated with project emissions.

- Increase the amount of crude that can be processed.

- Change the type of crude the refinery processes.

- Increase process emissions.

- Change refinery operations.

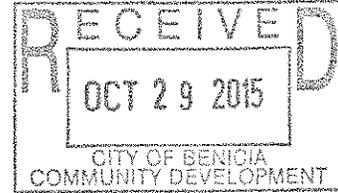
The reasons listed above are among the many reasons I continue to support Valero's Crude by Rail project. The Valero Benicia Refinery is a good neighbor to the community, a top employer and major benefactor to our region. I chose Benicia to live knowing that a refinery was operating safely and environmentally sound in this city. It is also one of only two refineries in the state recognized by Cal/OSHA for its exemplary safety performance. Since 2006 the Benicia Refinery has continuously earned the VPP STAR Site designation for going above and beyond Cal/OSHA safety standards. Please consider the facts and approve this worthy project without further delay

From:

10/15/2015 15:45

#223 P.002/002

ATTN: AMY MILLION
FAX: 707 747 1637



Benicia City Leaders:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Valero's proposed crude by rail project. I am writing in support of the project and to encourage the Planning Commission to approve the project without continued delay.

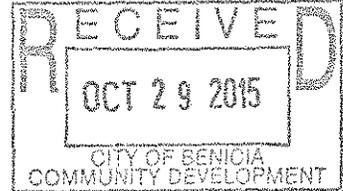
The Valero Benicia Refinery initially submitted plans for this project in 2012. Since then, significant advancements have been made at the state and federal levels regarding rail transportation regulation. As the RDEIR details, these many regulations include reduced speeds and better braking systems. Valero has also voluntarily agreed to use improved CPC-1232 rail cars in advance of federal regulations.

Valero is a dedicated member of this community. Refinery employees are our neighbors and friends and the refinery itself provides 25% of the city's General Fund revenue that funds our vital city services. It's time that we allow them to move forward with this infrastructure project.

Thank you,

Remigio Pasibe
Remigio Pasibe
10/29/2015
494 MILLS DRIVE
BENICIA, CA 94510

ATTN: AMY MILLION;
FAX: 707 747 1637



Benicia Planning Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support for Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project. As the president of the Pil-Am of Benicia, I am proud to call the refinery a conscientious neighbor. Valero is an important partner to the Benicia community and a vital contributor to the local and regional economy.

This project will help to ensure the refinery remains competitive in a changing marketplace while benefitting our environment - it is a win-win for Benicians.

Per the RDEIR, this project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. It will also create additional jobs and tax revenues that fund vital local services.

Valero has a commendable safety record and has continuously earned the Cal/OSHA VPP Star Site designation since 2006 for going above and beyond Cal/OSHA safety standards. I am confident they will bring this same commitment to safety to this project.

I urge you to please approve this project to move forward without additional delay. This project is good for the economy, the environment and Benicia.

Thank you,

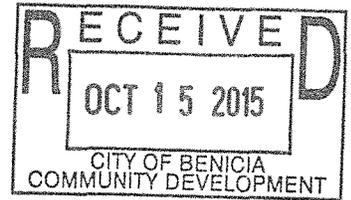
Sophie Paslbe
Sophie Paslbe

10/29/15

494 MILLS DRIVE
BENICIA, CA 94510

Amy Million

From: Porter, Alysia <Alysia.Porter@valero.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:35 PM
To: Brad Kilger; Amy Million
Subject: Letter of Support re: Valero Crude by Rail Project



October 15, 2015

Dear Benicia Planning Commission and Benicia Officials:

As a Valero employee, I have firsthand experience with the safety culture and accident prevention protocols here at the Benicia Refinery. The refinery's number one priority has been and always will be the safety of our workers, contractors and Benicia residents.

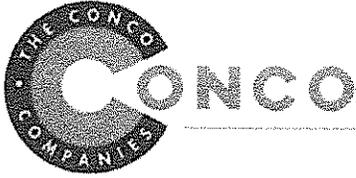
That's why I support our Crude by Rail Project. This project will be operated safely and with precision to ensure environmental protection and community wellbeing.

Per the RDEIR, this project does not change the type or volume of crude oil that we are processing at the refinery, nor does it require any changes to current BAAQMD permits. It's simply a logistics project on our existing property to provide an alternate method of crude delivery. And as always, we will continue to comply with existing environmental and air quality requirements set by regulatory agencies.

This project is beneficial for Benicia. It will result in additional jobs and tax revenues while reducing air emissions and lowering the likelihood of a spill. This is a win-win.

Thank you,

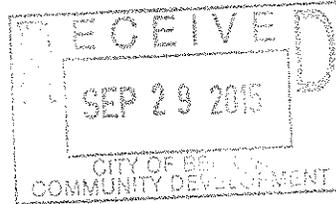
Alysia Porter



MAIN OFFICE
5141 Commercial Circle
Concord, CA 94520
PH: 925.685.6799
FX: 925.685.6851
LIC. # 199902

Southern California
13052 Dahlia Street
Fontana, CA 92337
Ph: 909.350.0474
Fx: 909.350.0475

Pacific Northwest
18644 72nd Avenue
Kent, WA 98032
Ph: 425.251.1684
Fx: 425.251.6546



September 29, 2015

City of Benicia
Planning Commission
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Benicia Planning Commissioners:

Thank you for your thorough review of Valero's proposed Crude by Rail Project in both the Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report. The RDEIR supports the DEIR's findings that this project is simply a logistics project that will have a net positive impact on air quality in Benicia. I wish to commend the city and the independent experts for your exhaustive review and analysis. I am writing to offer my full support for the project and ask that the project please be approved without further delay.

Valero is a vital member of the Benicia community, and the city's largest employer, with 450 local employees and an additional 250 contractors onsite daily. The refinery and its activities create or support more than 3,900 jobs in the region, generating millions in additional tax revenues and increased economic activities. As a member of Benicia's business community, I can appreciate what a substantial impact this refinery has on the city's overall employment and tax revenue generation.

This project has undergone substantial review, including more than two years of analysis by independent experts. These experts have found that the project will actually have a net positive impact on greenhouse gasses by reducing the amount of crude delivered by ship. This is also an important part of supporting our domestic energy boom. In short, this project is a win-win by allowing the city's largest employer to remain competitive while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

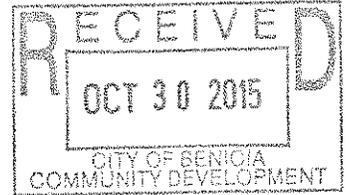
By reducing the overall environmental impact of their business, providing additional well-paying jobs and ensuring the refinery can remain competitive in a changing marketplace, Valero will help to ensure the success of Benicia and surrounding communities. Please prevent any further delay and approve Valero's crude by rail project.

Thank you,

Darren Ratekin
The Conco Companies

Amy Million

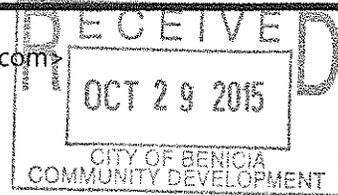
From: Robert Segerdell <bsegerdell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:31 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Valero



We fully support the Valero transportation issue. It is the only way that makes sense.

Amy Million

From: Sgambati, Rebecca <Rebecca.Sgambati@valero.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Brad Kilger; Amy Million
Subject: Support for Valero CBR Project



Dear Benicia City Officials,

I am writing in support of Valero's Crude by Rail Project. As the Technical Services Director at the Valero Benicia Refinery and a member of the Refinery Leadership Team, I am fully confident in our ability to operate this project in a manner consistent with our ongoing commitment to ensure the safety of our workers and the Benicia community at all times. This commitment is evidenced by the fact that we have continuously received the Cal/OSHA VPP Star Site designation since 2006 for exceeding federal safety standards.

The DEIR and RDEIR have found this project will have a number of positive impacts, including:

- **Improved air quality** by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Benicia
- **Reduced likelihood of spill** when comparing transport of crude by rail versus crude by marine vessel
- **Increased revenue** for the City's General Fund, which supports vital city services
- **Additional full-time and construction jobs** for members of the Benicia community

With each month this project is delayed, the city is losing \$30,000 in foregone tax revenues. That equates to \$360,000 per year – enough to fund four police officers or two paramedics.

Thank you for your extensive study of this project. As the RDEIR has affirmed, this project is good for Benicia and good for the refinery. As City Officials, you can feel confident that Benicia has done everything necessary to evaluate this project including the development of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, Draft Environmental Impact Report and Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report. With the many benefits this project will provide, and the continued foregone tax revenues as a result of delays in approval, it's time to approve this project.

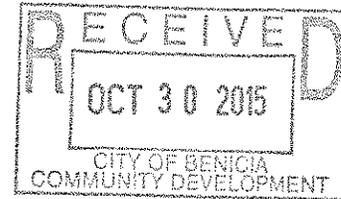
As an industry professional for more than 19 years and an employee of the refinery, I urge you to approve this project without further delay so that we can all begin realizing its many benefits.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sgambati

Amy Million

From: Ronald Stein <rstein@PTSstaffing.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 6:04 AM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



Ms. Amy Million,

I understand that the choice is with Californians to continue the ever increasing importation of crude oil from foreign countries into California ports, already at 52% of California needs, or to take advantage of the lower cost of crude oil from Canada and the Midwest which requires public approval of crude-by-rail projects to get that crude oil into California.

Thus, I am writing to express my support for the Revised Draft Environmental Report (RDEIR) and for Valero's proposed Crude by Rail project. The City of Benicia and independent experts have spent nearly three years closely examining this project and developing a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Report and RDEIR. These analyses go well beyond California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and illustrate the project's many benefits for Benicia.

According to the City's DEIR, RDEIR and economic analysis, this project will:

- Meet or exceed all federal standards regarding rail procedure and safety, including the extensive additional regulations now in place at the federal and state levels since Valero initially applied for the project in 2012.
- Create 20 permanent, local, well-paying jobs and require an additional 120 skilled craftsman jobs during construction.
- Improve air quality and help California and the Bay Area achieve its climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 225,000 metric tons per year.
- Operate under current air permits with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).
- Provide \$1.6 million in annual funding to the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response for inland spill preparedness.
- Provide an additional \$30,000 a month in property tax revenues to the City of Benicia to fund vital city services.

According to the DEIR and RDEIR, this project will NOT:

- Create additional health risks associated with project emissions.
- Increase the amount of crude that can be processed.
- Change the type of crude the refinery processes.
- Increase process emissions.
- Change refinery operations.

The reasons listed above are among the many reasons I continue to support Valero's Crude by Rail project. The Valero Benicia Refinery is a good neighbor to the community, a top employer and major benefactor to our region. It is also one of only two refineries in the state recognized by Cal/OSHA for its exemplary safety performance. Since 2006 the Benicia Refinery has continuously earned the VPP STAR Site designation for going above and beyond Cal/OSHA safety standards. Please consider the facts and approve this worthy project without further delay.

Ronald Stein, P.E.

Founder
rstein@PTSstaffing.com

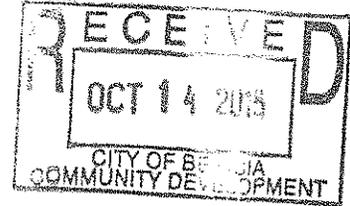
PTS Staffing Solutions
Engineering - IT - Professional

949-268-4023
Fax 949-268-4040
888-787-3711 Ext 23

www.linkedin.com/in/ronaldstein

October 13, 2015

Dear Benicia City Officials,



As someone who has lived in Benicia for over 28 years, I can recognize the implementation of Valero's crude by rail project would greatly benefit our community. The RDEIR notes that this project would reduce emissions, improve air quality and generate local economic activity.

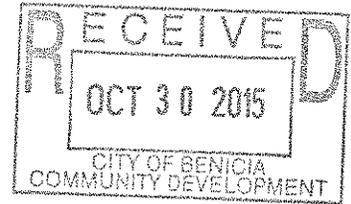
Over the years, the City of Benicia has examined the would-be-effects of constructing the crude by rail project. I appreciate the thoroughness of the environmental impact reports to help the City make an informed decision, but I believe the City has had more than enough time to make an educated decision to approve Valero's crude by rail project.

Valero always has been a good neighbor and part of the community. Valero participates in local events, donates millions of dollars to local charities and Valero employees donate many hours of time to local causes. Valero has become a staple of our community. They contribute 25% of the City's budget and is Benicia's largest employer. This project would boost revenue to the City to help pay for local law enforcement & fire fighters and contribute even more jobs to Benicia residents. I support Valero's crude by rail project and suggest you do the same.

Sincerely,
Gail Stock

Brian Stone
554 Cooper Drive
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: 707 748-5660



30 October 2015

Benicia Planning Commission

Attn: Amy Million, Principal Planner

250 East L Street,
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Benicia Officials,

After examining the RDEIR for myself, I support Valero's crude by rail expansion because:

- Crude by rail will reduce emissions, replacing up to 82% of the previously used marine method.
- Accessing domestic sources of crude decreases the influence of price spikes and energy shortages from foreign sources. Continuing to pursue American sources of energy is another step closer to energy independence.
- Jobs are created and maintained not only generally in the US, but here locally in Benicia, CA.

Valero is the only recipient in California to receive the VPP Star Site recognition for preparedness and preventative procedures that go above Cal/OSHA standards. Valero has one of the best safety records in the refining business, but continues to innovate in safety, prevention and other technologies.

It is important to note the implications of simply changing the method of transporting crude when it comes to preventing accidents. Prevention of accidents and mitigation of any accident is a lot easier and limited in impact compared to marine bound ships. Rail shipments use existing infrastructure and would lead to better maintenance and improvements. This would allow Valero to better control and mitigate existing risk when shipping crude by rail to their Benicia facility.

A agree with the majority of Benicians and hope you approve the Valero crude by rail project.

I have also enclosed a copy of my previous letter from 15 September 2014, supporting this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brian E. Stone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Stone".

Brian Stone
Retired Forester

Enclosure

Brian Stone
554 Cooper Drive
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: 707 748-5660

15 September 2014

Benicia Planning Commission (a.million@ci.benicia.ca.us, bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us)

re: Valero's Crude Oil by Rail Project

I support Valero's proposal to bring in crude oil from the Midwest by rail.

Reasons I support proposal:

Rail is less polluting than ship (current method). Shipping distances are considerable less.
Crude oil from the Midwest keeps capital in the US (versus current practice).
Jobs are created and maintained in the US (an improvement over current situation).

Volumes could be written - I don't have the time.

Replacing imported crude oil with domestically produced crude oil is a no-brainer.

Prevention of accidents and mitigation of any accidents is a lot easier and limited in impact when compared to ships and the affected environments.

Rail shipments use existing infrastructure and would lead to better maintenance and improvements. Perhaps pipelines could replace some of the rail shipments in the future.

Valero's proposed activity occurs largely in the Benicia Industrial Park where traffic impacts, noise, and other related activities that might occur should be accepted as a normal situation.
(Worrying about how long a rail crossing is used or impact on other businesses in the Park is bogus. If such businesses have a concern they should consider relocating, and other routes avoiding congested rail crossing can be used.)

The EIR process mandated by CEQA for documenting impacts and mitigation measures and should not be the tool to coerce change on how society uses energy and maintains itself.

It is unfortunate that those that abuse CEQA causing delays and additional expenses can not be held accountable, but such blame must be assigned to politicians.

Sincerely,
/s/ Brian E. Stone

Brian Stone
Retired Forester

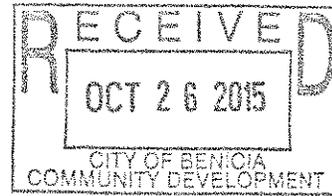
ps: Public Access TV of the Thursday, Sept 11, Planning Commission Hearing was excellent, and many others made my concerns more eloquently.

cc: info@beniciaCBR.com

C-190

October 23, 2015

Amy Million, Principal Planner
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510



RE: Valero Benicia Crude by Rail Project

Dear Amy Million;

My wife and I have lived in Benicia for more than 36 years and chose to raise our family here. We chose to live here based upon above average public schools, public safety and quality of life, among many other things. Benicia's Humble Oil, Exxon and now Valero have played a huge role in making Benicia what it is today. Valero is a very good neighbor and deserves our support as they seek to improve their facilities in order to remain competitive.

We understand that Valero applied for permits to build three railroad track extensions (sidings) and an unloading rack on their property. We are also quite certain that these permits would have been approved and construction would be underway if not for a small but vocal group opposed to anything related to fossil fuel. This group loses all credibility with us and most Benicians, as it exaggerates and uses scare tactics. They talk of "rickety tracks" and "train bombs" when referring to Valero's CBR. They warn Benicians of catastrophic disasters like the explosive train derailment that leveled the downtown of Lac-Megantic, Quebec, when they know there is ZERO chance of anything similar occurring here in Benicia.

We believe that the City of Benicia, Council and Planning Commission only have the authority to approve/disprove Valero's request. If the project adheres to the laws, building codes and the General Plan, then it should simply receive approval.

As far as what's carried on the tracks and in the tanker cars, that's not within the City's authority. All other outside issues should be taken up with the proper state and federal authorities, such as the Union Pacific Railroad, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Bay Area Air Quality Management District and possibly the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

We can see the handwriting on the wall, if the City of Benicia does not approve Valero's application, then the expensive lawsuits will surely follow. Let the outside entities be the disapprovers as that is their authority.

We urge you to approve Valero's Crude by Rail Project.

Alan L. Thompson

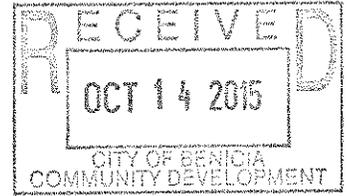
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan L. Thompson".

Sylvia T. Thompson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sylvia T. Thompson".

Amy Million

From: Anthony Van Zandt <anthonyvanzandt@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 8:56 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Valero CBR



To Amy Million and the City of Benicia:

I wish to express my support for Valero's crude by rail project and encourage you to approve the project without further delay. Nearly three years of examination have occurred to ensure the project is good for everyone involved. The latest RDEIR is the third time the city has had the same findings. This project creates jobs and provides revenues. That's a win-win for this community.

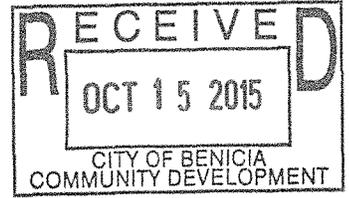
Thank you,

Anthony Van Zandt

Sent from my iPad

Amy Million

From: Steve Villata <smv707@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Amy Million; Brad Kilger
Cc: info@beniciaCBR.com
Subject: Support Valero



We support Valero

Crude by Rail: Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)

Steve Villata

524 Hastings Drive

Benicia, Ca 94510

October 16, 2015

Brad Kilger, Benicia City Manager

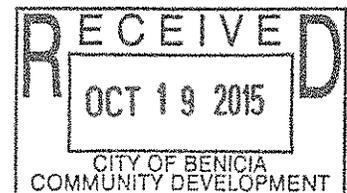
Amy Million, Principal Planner

I am writing to support the Crude by Rail project that Valero has before the Planning Commission. The RDEIR lists numerous procedures and standards put in place to properly mitigate risk of transporting crude by rail. I believe the RDEIR overstates the significance of risk! Valero has a stellar safety record because of the standards and procedures they have in place and have been developed in the past that they currently follow. I would venture to say one is safer inside the refinery gates than outside on the city streets and freeways. (How can I say that?) I spent 30 years working in the refinery, learning and operating half of the refinery units as a technician in the field and then the last half of my career as Operations Supervisor, overseeing all of refinery field operations at one time. That includes the ship that ties up to the dock to off load crude oil to the finished products that leave the refinery and the operating units in between. This all takes a major safety effort with each section of the refinery developing their safety procedures for operation, shutdown and startup of their units. These procedures are reviewed and approved by the Safety Department head who reports to the refinery manager. It is all about understanding how things operate and mitigating risk. Risk is associated with everything in life. I believe Valero will continue to uphold the highest standards of safety in building and operating this project. I believe they will continue to strive to be the top rated refinery in the nation. I urge you to approve Valero's crude by rail project.

Thank you,

Duayne Weiler

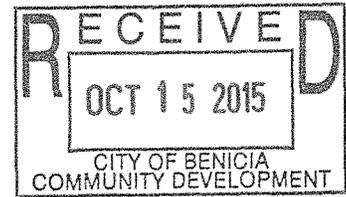
Benicia Resident.



cc. Lucy Ma, Valero Refinery

Amy Million

From: nlrwhitman@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Amy Million
Cc: info@beniciabr.com
Subject: Crude by Rail Project (RDEIR)



Amy Million, Principal Planner

City of Benicia

250 East L Street

Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Ms. Million;

Please be advised I support the proposed Valero Crude by Rail Project.

I have been following the discussion by attending meetings, reading articles in the Benicia Herald, and thinking about the overall positive impact the Exxon/Valero Refinery has had on Benicia. I've been a Benicia resident since 1976.

Please include me in the "It's Good for Benicia" group.

Thank you.

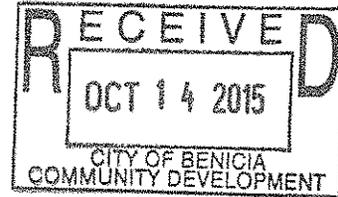
Sincerely,

N.L. Whitman

252 W Seaview Drive

Benicia, CA 94510

October 13, 2015



Dear Officials of the City of Benicia,

I am writing to you today as someone who has lived in Benicia for almost 30 years, to voice my SUPPORT, of the Valero Refinery's crude by rail project. I have lived and voted in Benicia for almost 30 years. Since the release of the RDIER, the facts have not changed- emissions, air quality, process emissions, jobs, etc have not changed, and other project benefits have not changed and will accrue over time. This was and still is a good deal for the City of Benicia and Solano County.

As with any large project, there will be those that oppose the project for a variety of reasons. Concerns have been raised about the safety of transporting crude by rail. That is why the Federal Railroad Administration issued new rules regarding the movement of crude by rail. Have there been accidents, yes there have. Will accidents happen in the future, hopefully not, but if humans are involved, who knows. As a result of the new FRA rules governing transportation of crude by rail, the railroad industry, and the lineside communities have increased their preparedness and prevention efforts. Valero has been active on this front and has increased their preparedness and their safety processes.

We all know that Valero is committed to our community and that they have demonstrated their commitment time and time again. I believe now, and have from the start of this process, that this project is a good project for Valero and the City of Benicia AND that this project needs and must be approved.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilkinson

Amy Million

From: Linda Yarbrough <eyarbrough@att.net>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 9:14 PM
To: Amy Million
Subject: Support Valero Crude by Rail Project



My family and I have lived in Benicia for 43 years.

We strongly support Valero's crude by rail project.

This vital project has been held up too long. There is little risk to Benicia residents or the environment.

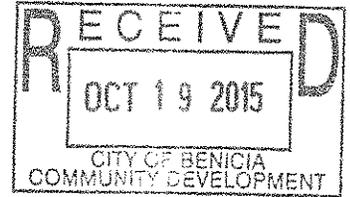
The advantages for all California residents far out weighs the risk of transporting this vital domestic commodity by rail.

California residents will require petroleum products for many years to come. We simply can not live and prosper without them, Please support this project. It is time to do it and the right thing to do.

Ed & Linda Yarbrough
375 Saint Augustine Court
Benicia, Ca. 94510

Amy Million

From: Eddie Yarbrough <eyarbrough@att.net>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 5:16 PM
To: Amy Million; Brad Kilger
Subject: Support for Valero Crude by Rail Project



Oct. 19, 2015

We strongly support the Valero Crude By Rail Project.

Valero needs the project to remain competitive in the refining business. It will allow the refinery to refine more domestic crude. Refining domestic crude is critical to reducing our need to purchase foreign crude. Refining domestic crudes builds the U.S. economy and provides jobs for millions of Americans throughout our economy.

There are risks associated with everything we do. Crude by rail indeed has some risks. It is not as dangerous as many other activities that we do daily that are not nearly as important to our lives and economy. By any reasonable standard crude by rail is safe and will become more so with each passing day.

Valero has proven that it is a safe and responsible member of the Benicia community. Safety is their top priority. This project will be built and operated in the safest possible manner.

California needs this project to ensure a reliable supply of motor fuels and other petroleum products. Although there are some that think that there are other choices for motor fuels, they are wrong, especially for the next several decades. Attempts to quickly force alternatives on Californians would result in major hardships and economic damage far beyond any risk of transporting crude by rail.

According to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, the RDEIR and economic analysis, the project will:

- * Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions from marine transport up to 225,000 metric tons per year, helping California achieve its climate goals.
- * Create 20 local, permanent well-paying jobs and require 120 skilled craftsman jobs.
- * Not create health risks associated with project emissions.
- * Meet or exceed all federal standards regarding rail procedure and safety.
- * Operate under current air permits with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).
- * Result in \$1.6 million in annual funding to the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response for inland spill preparedness.
- *
- *

The project has been thoroughly reviewed and studied. It is time to approve it!

Sincerely,

Ed & Linda Yarbrough

*