

COMBINED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ADDENDUM TO VIP EIR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Benicia announces that an Addendum to the certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Valero Improvement Project (VIP) is available for review. The Addendum describes the anticipated environmental effects of the proposed VIP Amendments. Elements of the original VIP, approved in 2003, are currently under construction at the Valero Refinery, 3400 East Second Street, in Benicia, California. Valero has now applied for a use permit to make the following changes in the approved VIP:

1. Change the design of the approved scrubber to improve air pollutant emission control by treating the exhaust streams from both the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and the coker rather than just the coker as originally proposed;
2. Replace two existing furnaces that cannot operate at the higher pressures required for the scrubber;
3. Substitute a new, more efficient hydrogen unit for an existing unit to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases, and reduce flaring;
4. Add a desalter vessel and make other minor equipment changes to improve overall operational efficiency.

The City has determined that implementation of the proposed VIP amendments would not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant effects and that there are no project alternatives or mitigation measures previously found to be infeasible that are, in fact, feasible and that would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment. Therefore, an Addendum to the VIP EIR has been determined to be the appropriate documentation under Section 15164 of the Guidelines to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Addendum, as well as the VIP EIR, are available for review at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street in Benicia, and may also be reviewed and downloaded at the City of Benicia website www.ci.benicia.ca.us. The Addendum and the EIR may also be reviewed at the Community Development Department, 250 East L Street in Benicia. The Department has paper copies of the Addendum and electronic copies of the Addendum and EIR available for purchase. Department hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PUBLIC HEARING: The City of Benicia Planning Commission will conduct a formal public hearing on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 250 East L Street, to consider granting a use permit for the proposed VIP Amendments.

Comments on the Addendum and the proposed VIP Amendments may be provided at the July 10 public hearing, or may be submitted in writing to: Community Development Department, 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to: comdev@ci.benicia.ca.us.

For further information please contact Charlie Knox, Community Development Director, at (707) 746-4280.