

RESOLUTION NO. 15-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENCOURAGE THE CHEVRON RICHMOND REFINERY PROCEED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR THE CHEVRON RICHMOND RENEWAL PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Chevron Richmond Refinery occupies 2,900 acres in the City of Richmond, produces petroleum products and has provided Richmond residents with jobs for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Chevron's Richmond Renewal Project represents a significant capital investment by Chevron to prepare the refinery for the future and replace older equipment with newer and cleaner technologies to conserve energy and improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, permitting for the Richmond Renewal Project began in 2005, and was concluded on July 17, 2008, after certification of a final environmental impact report (EIR) and issuance of a conditional use permit (CUP) by the City and an Authority to Construct issued by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond and BAAQMD required Chevron to agree to more than 100 enforceable permit conditions designed to ensure protection of public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the project was stopped in 2009 by the California Courts responding to litigation claiming specific inadequacies in the EIR; and

WHEREAS, the California Courts will shortly issue a final ruling expected to conclude the litigation but also providing insight into how the inadequacies in the EIR can be repaired, providing a path forward for the Renewal Project should Chevron elect to pursue it ; and

WHEREAS, the Renewal Project is projected to create 1,200 new union construction jobs at a time when unemployment among union households remains at nearly 40%; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond City Council desires to work with Chevron to facilitate the processing of a new or amended application so that the Richmond Renewal Project can move forward and be constructed in an environmentally responsible manner without further unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS, due to the long delay of the project and the need to ensure an environmentally responsible and beneficial project that will create local jobs and other benefits for Richmond, it is crucial for City staff to work with the staff of the Chevron Richmond Refinery and the Richmond community to develop a permit process and conditions that allows the Richmond Renewal Project to move forward; and

WHEREAS, Chevron and the City of Richmond share the values, aspirations and requirements long shared and desired by the Richmond community, including that projects are developed in a safe, healthy and environmentally responsible manner and that projects are done in accordance with local, state and federal laws and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond encourages Chevron to immediately apply for a new or amended permit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the city manager to make processing a new or amended permit a high priority, to assign necessary staff, engage required consultants and take other appropriate measures as required to process a permit application as promptly as possible consistent with governing laws and regulations, and;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council hereby directs the City Manager to meet with Chevron staff to develop a permit process and timeline and to report regularly to the Council and Richmond community to ensure transparency and to allow for public input with a goal for completing the Richmond Renewal Project by fall 2011.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California at a joint meeting thereof held March 1, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Beckles, Booze, Ritterman, Rogers, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Bates.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

[SEAL]

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 15-11**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a joint meeting held on March 1, 2011.