

Community Meeting Input Summary, August 24, 2016

The following is a summary of projects and comments suggested by community members at the August 24, 2016, public meeting. The projects have been organized into six main categories: Air monitoring; Notification/Alerts; Emergency Preparedness; Building/Infrastructure Improvements; Refinery Improvements; and Communication/Education/Outreach/Studies. In some cases, similar ideas were combined as one item in the summary. However, if the commenter provided a high level of specificity on a project, the comments are listed separately even if the idea fits within a general comment concept.

Air Monitoring

- Improve air monitoring and protocols at the refinery to create a more robust, real time, and independent system to be operated by SCAQMD for all toxic pollutants at the refinery.
- Improve monitoring systems and provide real time data for hydrogen cyanide (HCN), hydrogen fluoride, acrolein, benzene, carcinogens and particulate matter.
- Deploy thermal cameras at the refinery.
- Install fence line sensors at the refinery to determine chemical composition of emissions including, but not limited to, HCN, PM_{2.5} and other toxic air contaminants.
- The City of Torrance should hire an independent environmental engineering firm to collect and evaluate emissions data from the refinery.
- Continuously monitor the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) and make results available to the public on a real time basis.
- Monitor air quality around local educational facilities and other locations in the community surrounding the refinery.
- Install air quality monitors in homes within a three-mile radius from the refinery.
- Fund indoor air quality monitoring after refinery events.

Notification/Alerts

- Improve refinery alert system to make the alarms audible in commercial and residential locations.
- Increase notification for refinery events and change protocols to immediately and automatically notify the public using text messages, calls to landline and cell telephones, cable and commercial television, and social media.
- Increase the geographical area of alerts to a 10-mile radius from the refinery.
- Make alarm audible within all of the City of Torrance.
- Improve alarm protocols to include four level of notification including 1) warning; 2) shelter in place; 3) evacuate; and, 4) all clear.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District should design and operate the air quality monitoring and alarm systems.

- Notification system and method should be coordinated with fire department, hospitals, local school districts, private schools, day care services, park management and youth and senior programs and centers, and other private and public institutions located in the community.
- Real time public notification for refinery events related to Hydrogen Fluoride, Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU), hydrogen cyanide, acrolein, hydrochloric acid, and benzene.
- An improved notification system that is audible in an area at least 7-miles from the refinery including repeater sirens and/or improved phone apps capable of waking all community members located downwind from the refinery at the time of the emergency.
- Update the Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) release notification system, so that community members can choose to opt in and that information regarding a HF release is received by members at the same speed as SCAQMD.

Emergency Preparedness

- Purchase and distribute gas masks, gloves, emergency kit, and other personal protection equipment to all residents near the refinery in an event of emergency.
- Perform community emergency drills including, in schools, hospitals, community centers and other private and public sites.
- Develop an emergency preparedness program to help educators understand what to do in case of emergency.
- Coordinate and use the California Shake out drill to educate the public on shelter in place procedures for refinery emergencies.
- Fund a position to hire an independent expert to serve as a liaison and report to the community on a coordinated emergency preparedness plan in coordination with watch dog organizations, agencies, and the refinery.
- Develop and implement specialized training for first responders.
- Develop and inform the public on the chain of command for emergencies and how danger is determined.
- Use fund to help fund emergency response agencies.
- HF education, emergency planning and response drills and exercises for residential neighborhood, business districts, shopping malls, hospitals, schools, playing fields, and parks.

Building/Infrastructure Improvements

- Use funding to improve the Ruben Ordaz Community Center. The building needs to be brought up to code, landscaping, and be made energy efficient.
- Install air filtration systems at local schools.
- Create shelters for community members in the event of catastrophic events.
- Slow the speed of traffic at Del Amo Boulevard near Pueblo Park, between Crenshaw & Van Ness to improve safety to resident in this area.

- Create green areas with landscaping between residential/commercial properties and tank farms.
- Improve Del Amo Boulevard by creating green areas with drought tolerant, air quality friendly trees and plants.
- Install solar panels on government buildings including, the new Torrance Unified School District aquatic center.

Refinery Improvements

- Fund preventive measures at the refinery to prevent chemical releases at the refinery, and identify additional mechanisms to protect the public.
- Fund the hiring of an ombudsman to communicate with the community regarding concerns and to provide notifications of changes/improvements at the refinery.
- Involve neighborhoods and coordinate the communication of information between the refinery and all adjacent cities.
- Require the refinery eliminate HF from the facility.

Other feedback received at the meeting related to the length of time allowed to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP). The city of Torrance requested 60 to 90-days for any RFP due to their procurement and City Council approval process. The city of Torrance and the Torrance Unified School District also provided a proposed list of community benefit projects and issues by entity and type.