

Berkeley City Council  
District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 30, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

Subject: Referral to the Community Environmental Advisory Commission  
Regarding the Fire at the Chevron Richmond Refinery of August 21,  
2012 and the resulting health advisory communications with the City of  
Berkeley

### RECOMMENDATION

Request that the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) research the aftermath of the recent fire at the Chevron Richmond Refinery of August 21, 2012 and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's response to, and communications with the City of Berkeley regarding its citizens' alert system. Subsequent to those findings, CEAC is requested to report back to the City Council with recommendations for improved communications and/or procedures for future health advisories, if necessary.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

### BACKGROUND

As the mission of the CEAC is to develop a plan, prioritize strategies and make recommendations for environmental protection we are respectfully requesting that this Commission investigate agency and industry responses to the environmental and health threats to Berkeley citizens in the wake of disasters such as the Chevron Richmond Refinery fire of August 21, 2012. Residents in our district reported health impairment and concerns as a result of this fire despite the fact that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) failed to detect any threats to air quality. Based on this discrepancy we are seeking merely to clarify several key questions and issues regarding this institution and its relationship to the City. In addition to investigating whether citizens in other districts were affected by this disaster, we would like this Commission to make subsequent inquiries to determine whether lines of communication between Chevron, the BAAQMD and the City of Berkeley were operational at their fullest extent; whether the City of Berkeley should be making recommendations to the BAAQMD about how they monitor and alert citizens; and clarifying the criteria used to alert its citizens about disasters and health threats, i.e. articulating the distinction between an advisory versus an emergency alert.

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli, District 5, 981-7150

