



Martinez Town Hall on Refineries

MARCH 25, 2024

Congressman DeSaulnier

- ▶ Contra Costa County Supervisor 1994 to 2006
- ▶ Formerly served as a **California State Senator** and **Assemblymember**, where 61 of my bills became CA state law
- ▶ First freshman in history to chair the **State Assembly Transportation Committee**, and was later **Chair of the State Senate Transportation Committee**
- ▶ Served as a member of the **California Air Resources Board** and the **Bay Area Air Quality Management District** from 1996 to 2006
- ▶ Represented most of Contra Costa County in Congress since 2015 and currently serve as a **senior member** on the **House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure** and the **House Committee on Education and Labor**

Refineries in California

- ▶ 4 refineries in **Contra Costa County**
 - ▶ PBF Energy's Martinez Refining Company (MRC) (Martinez)
 - ▶ Phillips 66 Refinery (Rodeo)
 - ▶ Marathon Petroleum's Martinez Renewables Refinery (Martinez)
 - ▶ Chevron Refinery (Richmond)
- ▶ Across California, there are 14 refineries
 - ▶ In the Bay Area, there's a total of 5, 4 in Contra Costa and 1 more in Benicia, just across the water

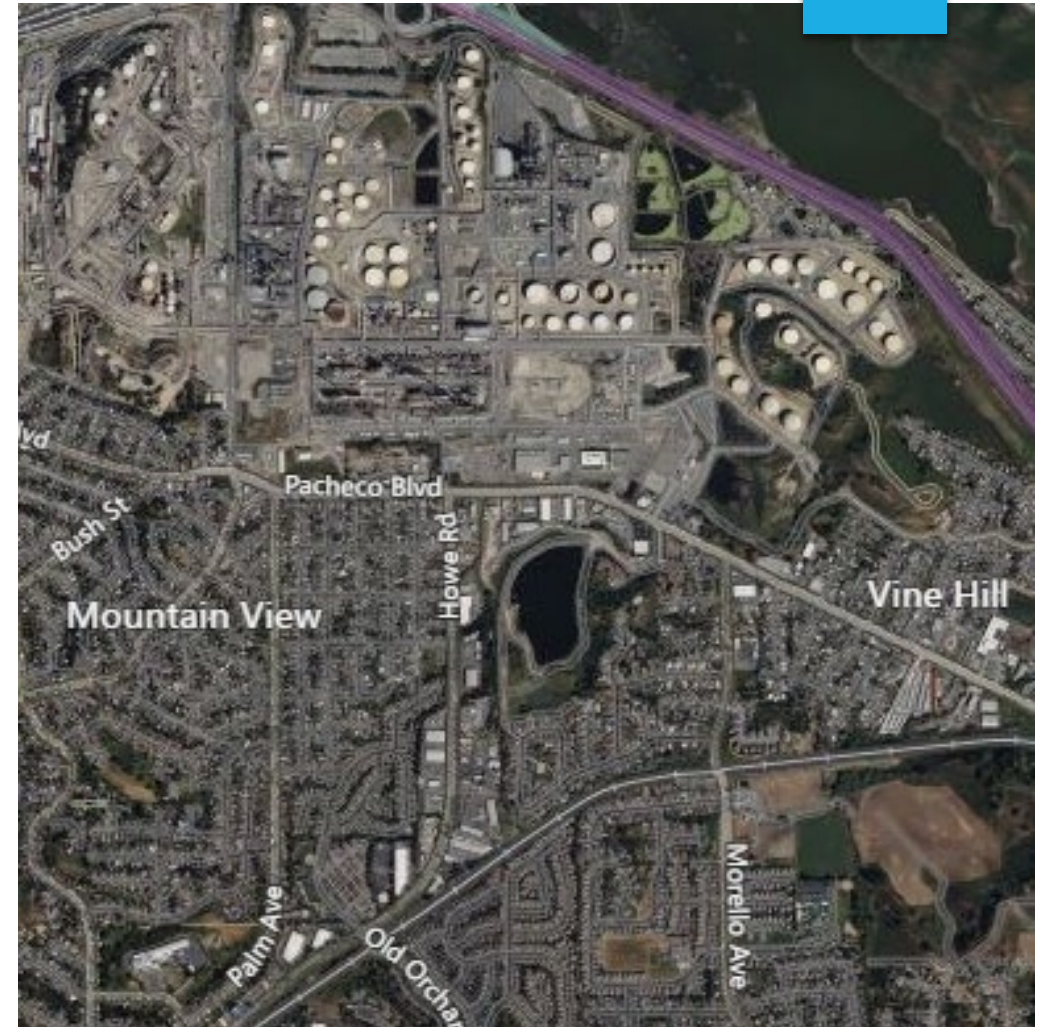


Concerns Around Refineries

- ▶ Refineries are a major source of **air pollutants** that can cause **negative health impacts**, both from normal operations and from unplanned incidents like malfunctions or releases.
 - ▶ Impacts to the environment, like on emissions, water quality, and ground contamination are also a concern
- ▶ Poorly regulated worker safety, lax Clean Air Act compliance, and proximity to hazardous materials can lead to dangerous situations for workers and nearby communities.
- ▶ Lack of communication or transparency with surrounding communities and local agencies.

PBF Energy's Refinery

- ▶ Built in 1915 as Shell Oil Product's first refinery in the U.S.
- ▶ In 2020, PBF Energy became the new owner of the facility.
 - ▶ Since becoming the owner, there have been 150 notifications made to Contra Costa County Health Services regarding incidents at the facility, as required by county Hazardous Materials Notification Policy
- ▶ Due to the extensive releases and safety concerns, CCH conducted an unannounced inspection in December 2023, followed by a more comprehensive review of the refinery's safety practices.



Some Concerning Incidents

- ▶ **November 24-25, 2022** – Spent catalyst was released, coating nearby communities with chemical dust; and PBF failed to properly alert the local health department and air quality regulators.
- ▶ **July 11, 2023** – A release of coke dust coated the ground surfaces surrounding the refinery. PBF again failed to alert the relevant local agencies in a timely manner.
- ▶ **October 6, 2023** – PBF reported an unintentional release of petroleum coke dust from the facility.
- ▶ **December 15, 2023** – PBF reported flaring at the facility, with a very significant odor observed.
- ▶ **December 17, 2023** – PBF misleadingly reported a grass fire at their facility that spouted black smoke; however subsequent investigations revealed the fire was initiated by spilled liquid hydrocarbons from a low flaring stack.

Safety Culture

- ▶ Lack of management's commitment to safety is apparent
 - ▶ **Repeating history** – following the devastating Tosco Avon Refinery (current Marathon-Martinez Renewable Fuels) fire in 1999, where 4 workers were killed, a safety evaluation was conducted and found “**senior managers have not been visibly committed to safety**” and “**the Tosco safety message is not clearly and universally understood**”
 - ▶ Similar to today, following the horrific deaths in the 1999 Tosco fire, family and community members led the fight for **increased safety and accountability**
- ▶ Though it is a different facility, there are patterns of bad management, especially at the Executives level, that impact safety culture which cannot be repeated

My Safety Work

- ▶ As a county supervisor, I authored and fought for the passage of an **industrial-safety ordinance** that placed stringent controls on refineries and chemical plants
 - ▶ This ordinance later was implemented statewide, and also became a model for the nation, with other states and localities following suit.
- ▶ **Refinery flare rule**

Panelists

- ▶ **Dr. Philip Fine**, Executive Director, Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- ▶ Contra Costa County Health Services
 - ▶ **Nicole Heath**, Director of Hazardous Materials
 - ▶ **Dr. Meera Sreenivasan**, Deputy Health Officer
- ▶ **Melike Yersiz**, Investigator-in-Charge, Chemical Safety Board

Shared SFGate Article: "**Mourners say 'never again' to Tosco refinery disaster**"

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