



Dear South Coast Air Quality Management District,

I am a Julie Shankle, President of the Torrance Teachers Association. I represent 1,200 educators and over 23,000 students as a teacher in a North Torrance school. I have worked as neighbor of the ExxonMobil Refinery for 18 years in good faith. I have recently been made aware of troubling issues that continue to surround the ExxonMobil (soon to be PBF) Torrance Refinery in the aftermath of last year's explosion that my students and I initially mistook for an earthquake. As an advocate for my colleagues, I write to you to work to resolve these very real issues that our teachers, students, and community face daily.

While I applaud your actions on April 2, 2016, to impose a \$4.5 million fine on ExxonMobil for air pollution as a result of a February 2015 explosion and up to a \$500,000 fine for possible violations during the recent restart, Torrance Teachers Association is joining members of Families Lobbying Against Refinery Exposures (FLARE) and the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance to request the following projects be considered to give due diligence to protecting our South Bay communities:

1. Require both ExxonMobil in Torrance and Valero in Wilmington to switch from using modified hydrofluoric acid. A single accidental release could kill hundreds of thousands in minutes. This chemical is so dangerous it is tracked for terrorist activities by the US government. There are safer alternatives, and all but these two refineries in CA already use these safer options. Hydrofluoric acid has no place at a refinery located within a densely populated community in an earthquake prone region. The Torrance Refinery houses 250,000 lb of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid which are stored in 50,000 lb tanks and transported on trains throughout South Bay communities.

2. Create Air Quality Monitoring stations in South Bay communities, particularly in Torrance. The nearest air monitoring stations are located in Compton and Long Beach and are ineffective in monitoring for a Torrance location. It is imperative to have multiple monitoring stations located around the refinery to properly measure pollutants output by their operations. These monitors should be placed on each side of the refinery (north, south, east, west). Air monitors should be capable of

measuring PM 2.5, Ozone, NOx, Benzene, Cyanide, Carbon Di-sulfide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Sulfur Dioxide, Toluene, Xylene, 2,2,4 Trimethylpentane, 3-Methylpentane, Ammonia, Black Carbon, Ethylbenzene, N-Heptane, N-Hexane, N-Octane, Trimethylbenzene, and Hydrofluoric Acid.

We request the implementation and support of an independent initiative designed to provide real time air quality readings (24 hours per day) to the general public and educate the community as to what is in the air. The initiatives currently in place with The Richmond Community Air Monitoring Program would be close to ideal. (<http://www.fenceline.org/richmond/learn.htm>)

3. Require reforming the Widespread Alert Warning System. Currently, the alert warning system only reaches approximately a 2 mile radius of the refinery, yet due to the risk of Hydrofluoric Acid at the refinery a serious incident could expand beyond this radius. Schools, residents, and businesses need to be immediately alerted should a large-scale incident occur. The system should incorporate a wider system of sirens, but also effective and reliable text, email, and phone alerts through the city of Torrance and neighboring South Bay communities and school districts.

4. Require enhanced education and outreach to the community by the refinery. Enhanced communication to the community, especially school districts, is imperative to ensure proper emergency preparedness. All should understand what the alerts require of them, what shelter in place means, how long they should take shelter and any other information pertinent to properly deal with failed air quality, particularly a hydrofluoric acid leak. Schools, hospitals, fire departments, and businesses should be advised on drills to practice and prepare for in the event of a major refinery catastrophe.

On behalf of Torrance teachers and students, I ask that you support efforts by organizations such as Families Lobbying Against Refinery Exposures (FLARE) and Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) to appropriate money from the fines you imposed on the refinery to directly address these serious issues surrounding the Torrance Refinery. The projects listed above will have a positive impact on safety, air quality, and the ability to educate concerned community members here in the South Bay. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration in supporting these projects.

Sincerely,

Julie Shankle

President

Torrance Teachers Association