

Chevron Modernization Project EIR

City of Richmond, Subconsultant to ENVIRON



Urban Planning Partners recently completed the Chevron Modernization Project EIR for the City of Richmond. In 2008, the City of Richmond certified the Original Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Chevron Renewal Project and issued permits for the project. In 2010, a court ordered that the Original EIR be set aside. Partnering with ENVIRON, Urban Planning Partners drafted a Revised Environmental Impact Report that responds to the court's findings as published in *Communities for a Better Environment v. City of Richmond* (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 70, 98-101 [108 Cal.Rptr.3d 478].

The Revised EIR has a high level of legal, political and technical complexity that required an extremely proactive project management approach. In addition, there was a great deal of longstanding community interest and organized opposition that created the need for an exceptional community outreach and education component.

Urban Planning Partners led the community outreach for the project. Apart from environmental review hearings that are typically part of the decision-making process, Urban Planning Partners conducted four workshops and educational meetings on technical topics such as greenhouse gas emissions, health risk assessments and CEQA prior to the release of the Draft Revised EIR. Urban Planning Partners conducted outreach to neighborhood organizations and schools, and created and managed a website for the project. Prior to certification of the EIR, Urban Planning Partners aided the City in conducting two workshops to receive recommendations from the public for proposed Chevron-funded health and community benefit initiatives in Richmond.

In responding to the writ, the most significant issues for the Revised EIR concern air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. In recent years, these issues are the subject of evolving CEQA regulations, intense public scrutiny and litigation. Working with ENVIRON as a partner on this project, Urban Planning Partners gained a great deal of knowledge on this increasingly critical topic as it relates to CEQA.