

## A Message From



**Vice-Mayor  
John E. Márquez**



**Council Member  
Maria T. Viramontes**

Dear, Richmond Resident

Re: Chevron's Richmond Refinery Energy and Hydrogen Renewal Project

At the May 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay requested hiring an independent environmental and energy expert, Mr. Ranajit Sahu, for technical assistance to help us understand and create conditions of approval for Chevron's Richmond Refinery energy and hydrogen renewal project.

On Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the West Contra Costa Times Editorial Board advocated for a new law to protect a journalist's right to confidentiality. We agree with that law.

However, on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the West County Times Editorial Board harshly criticized the Richmond City Council's application of the same legal rights to confidentiality to help us make a more informed decision about the Chevron project and to protect the public good.

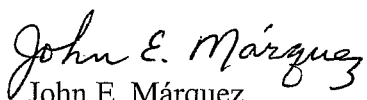
Nothing could be more important to us than protecting the public's interest. Mr. Sahu would, in part, review patented and private Chevron information to determine if heavier dirty crude is being used, or has the potential of being used at the Chevron Richmond Refinery. Mr Sahu's technical review will aid the City Council in protecting the public's health, the environment and the public's safety.

We believe we, and our colleagues, acted in good faith when we voted to protect the public's health and defend the public good, by approving the City Manager's recommendation to hire Mr. Sahu.


It is never easy to make a decision between confidentiality and the public's right to know. As elected officials, when faced with moral dilemmas, we search our hearts and minds for what is best. When making decisions we ask: Do we make the public good our first and foremost concern? How will the public benefit by disclosure or non-disclosure of confidential information? What are the known and unknown facts?

We believe we acted in your best interest in approving the City Manager's recommendation to hire an independent expert to help us answer these and other difficult questions and to help us make a well-informed decision regarding the Chevron project.

Respectfully yours,

  
John E. Márquez

Vice-Mayor, City of Richmond

  
Maria T. Viramontes  
Council Member, City of Richmond