

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE Agenda Item 24-1314 Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Chair Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky Councilmember Imelda Padilla Councilmember Tim McOsker Re: Phillips 66 Refinery Closure Transition Plan - item 24-1314 Dear Chair Price and Council Members of the Economic, Community Development and Jobs Committee, As the California Organizer for Labor Network for Sustainability, I appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on LA City Council Economic, Community Development and Jobs Committee item 24-1314. The Motion of October 22, 2024 requesting the City's Economic and Workforce Development Department to assign staff and prepare a transition plan notes a "need to work with business, labor, and community will help further our City's just transition towards our bold climate goal and a more green future." To advance the principles of just transition, City leaders must develop a transition plan with workers and communities as stakeholders. Establishing work groups on workers, financing, and land use will be essential in this process. The Los Angeles City and County Just Transition Task Force is one example that brings representatives of workers and communities as well as industry together to discuss impacts of ending industry operations and an opportunity for planning discussions grounded in the values of just transition. Key areas of discussion are supporting workers who will lose jobs and communities that will lose local revenues for services that will need to expand in times of transition. Safety as a first and constant priority. The Phillips 66 refinery closure is a matter of public safety. We must plan with the utmost care for refinery safety for workers and communities, which are often one in the same. The workers who maintain the refinery 24/7, year-round are experts in safety at these facilities. For employees of the refineries, both working inside the facilities and living near refineries, safety is a constant concern. Decisions about operations over the next several months and during decommissioning should be planned with the expertise of workers at the refinery's facilities. Demands for transition support: Supporting workers who will lose jobs and communities whose local revenues for services that often need to expand in times of transition. Safe staffing requirements and

retention of these workers who are subject matter experts will ensure decommissioning and clean up processes are executed with the greatest care and safety measures are in place for workers and the surrounding community. Support for an LA City/County Rapid Response Resource Center for displaced workers, which would establish infrastructure to be able to plan for this and subsequent facility closures. Top-line areas of support, including cash support to pay for basic needs, services also include: Wage insurance - for workers who find employment at a lower wage scale or salary, covering the financial gap will be necessary. Peer support - weathering mental health impacts of job loss in a plant shutdown can be extremely difficult. Support services among co-workers and by mental health providers will need to expand. LA City/County support with State Level advocacy Support state level efforts to increase unemployment insurance maximums Support California's Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Fund (DOGWF) expansion and extension -1) City/County direct funding allocation and 2) support for state level advocacy to update the program.

ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE
Agenda Item 24-1314

Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Chair
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Councilmember Tim McOsker

November 22, 2024

Re: Phillips 66 Refinery Closure Transition Plan - item 24-1314

Dear Chair Price and Council Members of the Economic, Community Development and Jobs Committee,

As the California Organizer for Labor Network for Sustainability, I appreciate this opportunity to submit comment on LA City Council Economic, Community Development and Jobs Committee item 24-1314. The Motion of October 22, 2024 requesting the City's Economic and Workforce Development Department to assign staff and prepare a transition plan notes a "need to work with business, labor, and community will help further our City's just transition towards our bold climate goal and a more green future." I appreciate the City's just transition efforts over the past few years. To advance the principles of just transition for a refinery closure, City leaders must develop a transition plan with workers and communities as stakeholders. Establishing work groups on workers, financing, and land use will be essential in this process. The Los Angeles City and County Just Transition Task Force is one example that brings representatives of workers and communities as well as industry together to discuss impacts of ending industry operations and an opportunity for planning discussions grounded in the values of just transition. Key areas of discussion are supporting workers who will lose jobs and communities that will lose local revenues for services that will need to expand in times of transition.

Safety as a first and constant priority. The Phillips 66 refinery closure is a matter of public safety. We must plan with the utmost care for refinery safety for workers and communities, which are often one in the same. The workers who maintain the refinery 24/7, year-round are experts in safety at these facilities.

- For employees of the refineries, both working inside the facilities and living near refineries, safety is a constant concern. Decisions about operations over the next several months and during decommissioning should be planned with the expertise of workers at the refinery's facilities.

Transition support: Supporting workers who will lose jobs and communities whose local revenues for services that often need to expand in times of transition.

- Safe staffing requirements and retention of these workers who are subject matter experts will ensure decommissioning and clean up processes are executed with the greatest care and safety measures are in place for workers and the surrounding community.
- Support for an LA City/County Rapid Response Resource Center for displaced workers, which would establish infrastructure to be able to plan for this and subsequent facility closures. Top-line areas of support, including cash support to pay for basic needs and services also include:
 - Wage insurance - for workers who find employment at a lower wage scale or salary, covering the financial gap will be necessary.
 - Peer support - weathering mental health impacts of job loss from a plant shutdown is extremely difficult. Support services among co-workers and by mental health providers will need to expand.
- LA City/County support with State Level advocacy
 - Support state level efforts to increase unemployment insurance maximums.
 - Support California's Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Fund (DOGWF) expansion and extension -1) City/County direct funding allocation and 2) support for state level advocacy to update the program.

I urge incorporating the above recommendations into your planning process for Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Veronica Wilson