

Benicia deserves Industrial Safety Ordinance

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It is past due for Benicians to have the same level of protection and information from an Industrial Safety Ordinance, or ISO, the same as the other refinery towns along the Bay Area Refinery Corridor.

Contra Costa County and the city of Richmond realized Cal OSHA provides for worker safety and protection, but not community protection. Thus, in 1991, they have developed and have continued to improve their landmark ISO. They have done this by applying lessons learned from incident analyses and revising and updating the ordinance to deal with evolving concerns.

Will it prevent the next catastrophe from management neglect? No, but it will produce a report within 72 hours directly to the city of Benicia with the latest information on the incident and will be required to continue to report to the city on a timely basis.

It will allow Benicia to learn from those managerial errors and impose corrective action where necessary.

The usual howls from the right-wing “no regulation” climate deniers will certainly be heard, but Benicians have learned from the Crude-By-Rail battle and the May 2017 Month of Flaring that Valero seems to put its profits ahead of community health and safety.

Benicians must take action to protect ourselves from corporate avarice! Please come and get informed at the Benicia Industrial Safety Ordinance Town Hall meeting next Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dona Benicia Room of the Benicia Public Library. Benicia’s children and community deserve the best. Benicia needs an ISO now!

*Andres Soto,
Benicia*