

Andrés Soto: One year later, still time for an ISO

Benicia Herald, 05/13/18

Thank you to the Benicia City Council for developing the priority based budgeting system this year. The results of the process made clear that many Benicians want the city to prioritize the adoption of an Industrial Safety Ordinance and the protections Benicians deserve.

Valero's massive month long flaring debacle of May 2017 has not resulted in any public report with an objective root cause analysis, local environmental health and safety impact study, nor any corrective actions that could or should have been made by Valero in advance of the incident.

Even if somehow by a miracle the Solano County Hazardous materials Division had issued such a report, Benicia still would have no mechanism to require corrective action by Valero.

We know Mayor Elizabeth Patterson and Council Member Steve Young have been responsive to the pleas of Benicians who want to be given at least the equal protection as the residents of Richmond, California and Contra Costa County, by supporting the need for adoption of an Industrial Safety Ordinance and to have the debate of: Why is Benicia the only Bay Area refinery town not protected by an Industrial Safety Ordinance?

Let's hope the other Council members are listening as well.

Andrés Soto