



Phasing Out the Use of MHF in the Refinery Process

WHEREAS two refineries located within ten miles of each other use the deadly chemical Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF) to process high octane gasoline in the densely populated areas (600,000 residents) of Torrance and Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, if accidentally released, MHF in one settler tank could form a ground hugging dense vapor cloud capable of killing in the first eight miles and causing life-threatening bodily injuries up to sixteen miles, and there have been ten documented MHF leaks at these refineries since 2017 plus one nearly punctured MHF tank in 2015 due to a refinery explosion; and

Whereas proven safer alternatives such as sulfuric acid and ionic liquid catalyst are in use at refineries across the nation and at all other California refineries which do not cause a poison cloud that lingers at ground level, and with proper planning no jobs need be lost in executing an alkalization rebuild at refineries where workers are at risk of serious injury or death on a daily basis from MHF;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party finds that the use of MHF puts the communities and workers in and around the Torrance and Wilmington refineries at such grave risk that the Air Quality Management District should adopt a regulation requiring that these refineries upgrade to a safer alternative within four years or less and that all workers be retained and retrained during this phase-out so they have the skills needed to return to work at these refineries upgraded to industry standard or to be employed at any refinery in the state, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party notify this position to the Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Steven Bradford, Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and the Long Beach City Council, Gardena City Councilmembers, Carson City Councilmembers, Torrance City Councilmembers, and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

Passed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party on June 11th, 2019