

# PIPELINE

NEWS ABOUT CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S REFINERY INDUSTRY

WINTERSPRINGSUMMERFALL 2007



## MEETING THE DEMAND FOR "CLEAN, GREEN" FUELS

To keep pace with the growing local demand for cleaner-burning gasoline and other fuels, East Bay refineries are investing over a billion dollars collectively to upgrade their facilities — meaning safer, cleaner and more reliable refinery operations, an increase in local fuel supplies and thousands of new jobs for local workers.

According to a recent front-page article in the *Contra Costa Times*, "During the coming few years, [refinery] revamps may create thousands of jobs in the East Bay and Solano County. The jobs should pay well, said Greg Feere, executive officer of the Contra Costa County Building and Construction Trades Council."

"It's going to be a huge economic boom," Feere told the *Times*. "It's really a positive development and these jobs will last for the next several years. And all the new money from paying these people will go back into the community."

The projects are also expected to generate millions of dollars in new state and local tax revenue.

With the demand for clean-burning fuels fast outpacing Bay Area supplies, the upgrades are essential. Without the improvements, the gap will only grow larger.

Chevron is proposing to modify and replace facilities at its refinery in Richmond to improve reliability and energy efficiency, while adding additional environmental safeguards. "This is also expected to increase our output of gasoline that meets California's clean-air specifications," says refinery manager Curtis Anderson.

Likewise, ConocoPhillips, which anticipates spending hundreds of

millions of dollars to upgrade its facilities, said the improvements will help increase local fuel supplies. The Contra Costa County Planning Commission recently voted unanimously in favor of the upgrades.

"Our project's going to increase our output of gas and diesel fuels by about a million gallons a day — that's a 30 percent jump in production," says ConocoPhillips refinery manager Rand Swenson. "Clearly, this will bring a welcome boost to local fuel supplies and greater predictability to the local market."

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**"IT'S ALL ABOUT IMPROVING  
PERFORMANCE SO WE CAN  
BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF  
BAY AREA MOTORISTS."**

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see **MEETING THE DEMAND**, page 3



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

□ To meet the growing demand for skilled workers and create more opportunities for California students, a coalition of business, labor and educators is calling for the expansion of “career technical education” (CTE) in the state’s high schools.

This is a critical issue for East Bay refineries, which have been working with Contra Costa County Supervisors Federal Glover and John Gioia to create and expand local job training programs. “We have many good-paying jobs that don’t require a four-year college degree,” says Supervisor Glover. “But we need qualified workers with the technical skills to fill them.”

In addition to local refineries, a growing number of California companies are having trouble finding skilled workers. With an estimated four million “baby boomers” retiring from California’s workforce in coming years, the need for qualified workers with high-tech skills is increasingly urgent.

The GetREAL coalition (relevance in education and learning) is co-chaired by the presidents of the California

“WE HAVE GOOD-PAYING JOBS. BUT WE NEED QUALIFIED WORKERS WITH THE TECHNICAL SKILLS TO FILL THEM.”

Contra Costa County Supervisor Federal Glover

Manufacturers & Technology Association and the State Building & Construction Trades Council. Coalition members include the



California Teachers Association, the Western States Petroleum Association, California Professional Firefighters, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, the California Farm Bureau, the Richmond Children’s Foundation, the California Aerospace & Technology Alliance and other leading labor, business, agriculture, health care, public safety, education and child advocacy groups.

According to recent polling, 79 percent of California citizens agree that expanding career technical education would help encourage more kids to stay in school, while 95 percent agree that providing high school students with a well-rounded education that includes rigorous academics and “hands on” vocational training would give them more opportunities and help them succeed whether they choose college or not. ■

For more information or to join the coalition, visit [www.getrealca.com](http://www.getrealca.com)



## EAST BAY LEGISLATORS LEAD EFFORT TO EXPAND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

□ Three East Bay legislators are leading efforts in the California Legislature to expand career technical education in the state's high schools, with the goal of reducing the state's 33 percent drop-out rate, increasing educational and job opportunities for students, and making school more relevant for the 21st Century economy.

"It's the right time to force some change in our public schools," says State Senator Tom Torlakson, whose legislation (SB 672) would require career and technical education for graduation. "We've gotten out of focus in terms of practical connection to real-world jobs and making schools seem relevant."

Meanwhile, Assemblymember Loni Hancock has authored legislation (AB 1414) to provide the resources needed for middle and high school CTE instruction, and Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier is carrying legislation (AB 1586) that would require students to complete CTE courses for admission into the state's public university systems. ■

## MEETING THE DEMAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's all about improving performance so we can better meet the needs of Bay Area motorists," says Bill Bodnar, manager of Tesoro's Golden Eagle Refinery near Martinez. "In addition to improving reliability, our facility's upgrades will cut emissions into the atmosphere by several thousand tons."

## "IT'S GOING TO BE A HUGE ECONOMIC BOOM."

Greg Feere, Executive Officer  
Contra Costa County Building & Construction Trades Council

Both ConocoPhillips and Chevron have proposed building new hydrogen-producing plants at their facilities. Hydrogen is an essential ingredient needed to make today's clean fuels.

Ultimately, everything the East Bay refineries are doing to modernize their facilities and improve operations means cleaner air, healthier supplies of "clean, green" fuels, more local jobs, greater safety and increased reliability — a win-win for motorists, workers and the environment. ■



# WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

ABOUT CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

**"I have been a long-time supporter of career technical education because it's the best opportunity to give our students a first-class ticket to quality jobs. A four-year college education is not the only pathway to success."**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

**"Expanding CTE instruction will bring better balance to today's educational curriculum, make education more relevant and equip our students with the skills needed for 21st Century jobs, whether they choose college or not."**

Jack Stewart, President  
California Manufacturers  
& Technology Association

**"Today's good-paying 21st Century jobs require advanced learning, special skills and technical education, but not necessarily a four-year degree. By expanding CTE, we'll help ensure that all our students are prepared for meaningful and essential work in California's new economy."**

Bob Balgenorth, President  
State Building & Construction  
Trades Council

**"It's the right time to force some change in our public schools. We've gotten out of focus in terms of practical connection to real-world jobs and making schools seem relevant."**

State Senator Tom Torlakson

**"To create a larger and technologically educated workforce, we must pursue an aggressive expansion of California's career technical education system."**

Assemblymember Loni Hancock

# Vocational education reborn

## Tailoring classes to careers

By ANDREW BECKER, *Contra Costa Times*

CONCORD — Reading, writing and 'rithmetic aren't the only Rs being taught in California high schools these days.

Rigor, relevance and relationships are the hot education buzzwords in Sacramento and a growing number of classrooms across the state as California tries to prepare today's students for tomorrow's workforce.

The thrust is to hold students to high standards while teaching subjects that prepare them for jobs or college as schools cooperate with businesses to meet their needs. It's part of larger efforts that target high school reform by blending small learning communities with meaningful classes.

*April 15, 2007*

*Complete article available at [contracostatimes.com](http://contracostatimes.com)*

East Bay legislators and refineries are working to expand career technical education in California schools — to create new learning opportunities for students while preparing them for 21st Century jobs.