

# Marathon Martinez Refinery - “Indefinitely Idled” in 2020



- “Indefinitely Idled” in 2020, citing reduction in gasoline demand at the start of the COVID pandemic
- Later announced a transition to renewable fuels
- 700+ workers laid off, including 350 members of United Steelworkers Local 5
- Terminal and renewable fuel refinery only has 25% of former employment



# Fossil Fuel Layoff: The economic and employment effects of a refinery closure on workers in the Bay Area

## **Authors:**

Virginia Parks, PhD, University of California, Irvine  
Ian Baran, PhD Student, University of California, Irvine

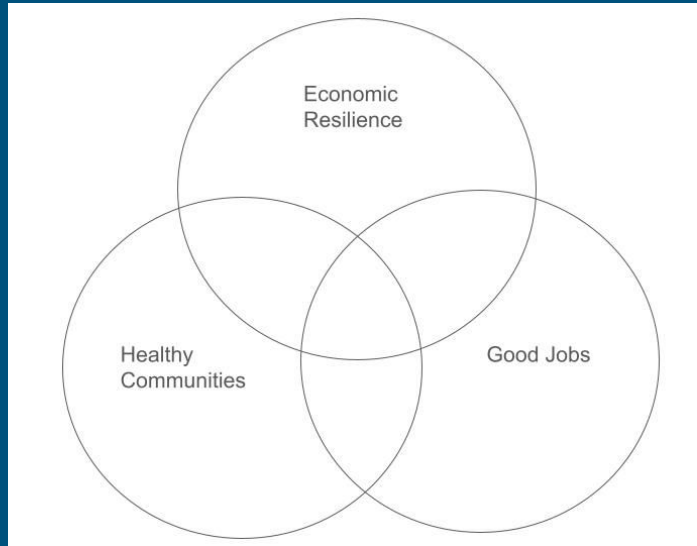
# Key Findings of Marathon Martinez Study

- **26%** of workers were still unemployed 1 year following layoff.
- **24%** average wage cut for workers who secured new employment.
- **81%** of workers affected were homeowners. **82%** chose not to relocate.
- Just **28%** of workers stayed in fossil fuels. The primary industries refinery workers moved into were: utilities, chemical treatment, manufacturing.
- **1/3** of workers reported falling behind financially following layoff.
- **32%** of workers took early retirement withdrawals. Many spent down savings, selling cars, and cutting back on expenses like children's sports.
- **91%** of workers were willing to enroll in a training program, but they would like to see those programs subsidized with a clean pathway to new employment at the end.

# Summary of Policy Recommendations

- ***Refinery Transition Planning and Oversight*** - Creating more oversight in the refinery transition process and ensuring worker and community needs are centered
- ***Worker Safety Net & Transition*** – Building a meaningful safety net and transition support for refinery industry workers who experience layoff
- ***Land Use, Decommissioning & Clean-Up*** - Ensuring communities aren't left with the cost of cleaning up highly contaminated lands, so lands can be repurposed for new development and community needs
- ***Refinery Community Support & Transition*** - Supporting frontline refinery communities recover from disproportionate health impacts, loss of tax revenue, and have a voice in future economic development
- ***Just Transition Economic Development*** - Ensuring Contra Costa takes swift action, and receives state/federal support, for building a diversified high-road economy for the future that can replace the economic benefits of the refining industry, centered around joq quality, equity and environmental justice

# Priorities for a Just Transition



- **Good jobs:** Increase quality jobs and ensure those jobs are accessible to those who need them most, including displaced refinery workers and workers from historically marginalized communities.
- **Healthy communities:** Stop polluting land, air, and water in communities that have had disproportionate pollution burdens, and target environmental and health improvements in these areas.
- **Economic resilience:** Reduce economic dependency on fossil fuel production by diversifying and increasing other sources of tax revenue.