

# RESOLUTION

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

By the Honorable Bill Dodd, 3rd Senatorial District;  
the Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, 4th Assembly District;  
the Honorable Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District;  
and the Honorable Timothy S. Grayson, 14th Assembly District;  
Relative to Commending the

## *Valero Benicia Refinery*

**WHEREAS**, The Valero Benicia Refinery (VBR) is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in the year 2019, and upon reaching this milestone, the Refinery is deserving of special public recognition for its contributions to the greater Benicia community through the laudable volunteerism of its employees, its philanthropic outreach, and its long-standing significance as a major contributor to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1961, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) ordered that the Benicia Arsenal be inactivated and closed over a three-year period, a decision that rocked the Benicia community due to the Arsenal's importance as a source of local employment and prompted discussions at the municipal level led by Benicia Mayor James Lemos as to options for the property's future development that led to Mayor Lemos and City Attorney John Bohn's successful effort in 1962 to convince the federal General Services Administration to grant annexation of the property to the City of Benicia, following which the Benicia Industrial Park purchased it in 1964 to develop it for sales use and rental purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, Four years after DOD's dire news about the Arsenal's closure, Benicia city officials continued to seek a comparable source of employment for Benicia, and thanks to the efforts of City Attorney Bohn, Humble Oil & Refining Company agreed to build its refinery in Benicia in 1965, thus averting further financial distress for the City, whose elected officials and citizenry celebrated the opening of the newly built Humble refinery on October 3, 1969, during a dedication that highlighted the economic and industrial importance of oil refining in California; and

**WHEREAS**, At the dawn of the new millennium, the Valero Energy Corporation acquired the refinery from ExxonMobil, and in the years that followed, the VBR has established a foundation of community service while manufacturing transportation fuels and other products and investing more than \$1.6 billion in infrastructure upgrades; and


**WHEREAS**, The VBR and its employees are vital members of the greater Benicia and Solano County community, contributing more than 2,000 volunteer hours each year to local nonprofit organizations and the Benicia Unified School District, while the VBR also has donated more than \$16 million to local charities between 2004 and 2019, funding programs for the economically disadvantaged, STEAM programs, environmental stewardship programs, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, Presently, the VBR employs more than 450 people, many of whom live in the City of Benicia, in addition to creating and supporting more than 3,900 additional jobs through its suppliers and partners in the City of Benicia and the greater San Francisco Bay Area; and


**WHEREAS**, Fifty years after it began its refining operations in the City of Benicia, the VBR continues to play an important, multifaceted role as a long-standing employer, a magnanimous contributor to countless nonprofit organizations and worthy causes in Benicia and Solano County, and a source of civic pride for local residents; now, therefore, be it


**RESOLVED BY SENATOR BILL DODD AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CECILIA M. AGUIAR-CURRY, JIM FRAZIER, AND TIMOTHY S. GRAYSON**, That, on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, the Valero Benicia Refinery be commended for its long-standing record of invaluable contributions to the people and the City of Benicia and extended best wishes for safety and success in the future.


Joint Members Resolution No. 472  
Dated this 3rd day of October, 2019.

  
Honorable Bill Dodd  
3rd Senatorial District



  
Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry  
4th Assembly District

  
Honorable Jim Frazier  
11th Assembly District

  
Honorable Timothy S. Grayson  
14th Assembly District