

Former Mayor Dee Hardison
2024 W. 236th Street
Torrance, CA 90501

March 5, 2015

Dear Senate Hearing Committee:

I am Dee Hardison and I was the Mayor of Torrance from 1994-2002. Soon after becoming Mayor, I visited the major businesses in Torrance. When I met with the ExxonMobil plant manager at that time, I asked why they weren't involved in the community and suggested they get involved. I was pleased that they readily got involved.

Since that time ExxonMobil has been a visible corporate citizen in our community, sponsoring numerous programs and activities to support the City and its residents.

I know that ExxonMobil has a long history of supporting the school district through various hands-on programs for specific groups of middle and high school students. They support educational development for teachers, including a 20-year teacher grant program, which provides STEM curriculum in the classroom. They have adopted a north-end school through the Torrance Chamber of Commerce; have encouraged their management and staff to personally serve on various non-profit boards and also support numerous local non-profit organizations with both financial and volunteer service.

They also started a Community Advisory Board of appropriate "neighbors" which continues to meet regularly to interpret, prioritize and communicate to refinery management the community's concerns regarding the refinery's impact on economic health and quality of life issues in the city.

And every summer for 21 years, ExxonMobil has supported a summer employment program where high school students gain valuable work experience with the school district and city to learn important job skills.

In closing, I just want to say that as a Torrance resident for 48 years, I have seen first-hand the direct community engagement and support that ExxonMobil has provided to our Torrance community.

Dee Hardison