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The Bakersfield Californian

Unions accused of “environmental extortion” in refinery dispute

BY STACEY SHEPARD, Californian staff writer – Tuesday, August 19, 2008

A coalition of local building trade unions has hired a Bay Area law firm to raise environmental objections **to leverage labor negotiations** with Big West, said Kevin Korenthal, government affairs director for Associated Builders and Contractors of Los Angeles/Ventura and Central California, which represents non-union construction firms.

Korenthal, however, says the firm’s main purpose is to **make the refinery expansion a union-only job**. The unions plan to dangle the specter of an environmental lawsuit — **driving up expenses and delays** for Big West — to intimidate the refinery to use only union hires for construction, he said.

If Big West agrees, Korenthal predicts the law firm will drop its environmental complaints.

“Their intent is to use the precious time by holding up the project in the hopes of getting Big West to agree to sign the project labor agreement,” he said. Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo has **filed the most extensive objections to the refinery project** since the environmental review began more than a year ago.

ABC has worked tirelessly to expose environmental extortion by San Francisco attorneys.

Don't let them take away local jobs, local energy, and local growth for our economy.

Greenmail is a common tactic used by organized labor to guarantee an all-union workforce. Help us send a message that environmental extortion is not welcome in our community.

To learn more log onto www.abccentralcal.org

Please make your voice heard today! The final step for approval of this project lies with the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

1

Call the Kern County Board of Supervisors and tell them to support the Clean Fuels Project:

District 1 – Jon McQuiston (661) 868-3650

District 2 – Don Maben (661) 868-3660

District 3 – Mike Maggard (661) 868-3670

District 4 – Ray Watson (661) 868-3680

District 5 – Michael Rubio (661) 868-3690

Email the board at: board@co.kern.ca.us

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Show your support by attending the meeting of the Board of Supervisors in person at the Kern County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301.

Date: October 21, 2008

Time: 2:00 P.M.