



# Chabot College

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## **Chabot College to Protest Power Plant in May 5 Noon Walk Out**

(Hayward, CA) – Chabot College will hold a Walk Out on Thursday, May 5, at noon, at the campus’s Grand Court to demonstrate protest of Calpine Corporation’s plans to build a power plant in the nearby Russell City area of Hayward.

Chabot College Power Plant Taskforce members urge people to attend the Walk Out and learn more about this issue. “We invite everyone who cares about our environment - friends, coworkers, neighbors, classmates, teachers, and families - to join together in protest of Calpine’s power plant in Hayward,” said English Instructor Alisa Klevens.

“We encourage everyone to walk out to Chabot College, to stand together to protect the health of our already-threatened environment,” said Art History Instructor Diane Zuliani. She noted that a Facebook page has been created to provide further information about the event: [www.facebook.com/chabotpowerplanttaskforce](http://www.facebook.com/chabotpowerplanttaskforce).

“The proposed Russell City power plant has potentially devastating environmental implications for Chabot and, as such, is an issue our community needs to know about,” said Clara McLean, Ph.D., Instructor of English/Service-Learning. Following is a statement from the Chabot College Power Plant Taskforce provided by McLean:

“The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has been actively promoting the ‘greening’ of our colleges. However, even as we strive to lessen our environmental impact, we find ourselves ensnared in a struggle with Calpine, a Texas-based energy company in the process of building a highly polluting natural-gas plant right on the Hayward shoreline, a mile downwind from the Chabot College Campus. Though it promotes itself as environmentally friendly, this plant will in fact spew massive amounts of pollutants into the air in an area already environmentally stressed by the intersection of three major freeways. Hayward’s largely working class, minority community, and the 11,000 students who attend Chabot, many of them the first in their families to attend college, are poised to be the ground-zero targets of the ammonia, particulate matter, and other toxins generated by this plant.

**-more-**

“The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, Chabot College students, staff and faculty, along with a number of community and social justice organizations, have been fighting this plant in the courts for years; Calpine, though, has seemingly inexhaustible resources to press its case for what promises to be a highly profitable plant. Incidentally, it is our understanding that none of the power generated by the plant will actually serve the Hayward community - it will be used by the wealthier communities across the bay in San Mateo and San Francisco counties. But the pollution will stay here, on the other side of the proverbial tracks, adding to the environmental burden already being borne disproportionately by residents of poor, working-class and minority neighborhoods in the East Bay.

“It’s a heartbreaking contradiction. As Chabot College, an already underfunded public college, does its best to enter the ‘green’ era of the 21st century, our efforts are being undermined by good old 20th Century ‘business as usual.’ Polluting, non-renewable energy is certainly NOT the wave of the future. But working class and minority communities, even here in the relatively enlightened Bay Area, may have to live with it for years to come. Children stand to be the most highly impacted by the plant, and there are numerous schools, preschools and daycare centers within a three mile radius of the plant, not to mention residents’ homes.”

For more information about Chabot College and to view directions and a map of the campus, please visit the website at [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu).

Chabot College is a community college offering more than 100 degree and certificate programs throughout the year. The campus caters to a diverse, vital student population of 15,000 whose goals range from transfer to a four-year college to skills training and personal enrichment. Students may register online at [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu). For registration information please call (510) 723-6700. Chabot College is located at 25555 Hesperian Boulevard in Hayward.

**Parking permit attached.**

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