

## Diana Gordon

The amount of greenhouse gases that would be released every year from the proposed Kalama methanol refinery make it unacceptable in a year that has seen considerable climate chaos.

Here in the West, we have been plagued by our continuing drought. Droughts have always been a natural part of our landscape, but climate change has transformed a 'normal' drought into a megadrought. The 19 years from 2000-2018 was the driest period since the late 1500's as ascertained by hydrological modeling and new 1200-year tree-ring reconstructions of summer soil moisture reported in the journal *Science* (April, 2020). With the moisture sucked out of the soil by extreme dryness and vegetation stressed, forests and other areas are sitting ducks for fires, especially during high wind events.

We know most of the factors that cause climate change and we must act urgently to curb anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission. Methane is an efficient driver of climate change because it is quite good at trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. In fact, it is about 84 times more effective at this than CO<sub>2</sub>.

We are faced with the sobering statistic that global methane concentrations rose from 722 parts per billion before the industrial era to 1866 ppb by 2019, the highest in 800,000 years. We also know that the Kalama methanol refinery will add at least 4.6 million tons of methane a year to that.

Unlike Vegas, what happens in Kalama will not stay in Kalama. Our methane will add yet more to the global total with the staggering results that we are already witnessing. The climate has warmed about 1 degree C and the effects are devastating now, in real time.

This project is rife with uncertainty. Will they actually use this methanol as olefins for plastic or repurpose it for fuel which produces even more GHG's? Will the Port use the refinery as an anchor project and require yet another pipeline to supply all its gas needs? Will they require so much of Washington's gas that other industries will be hampered? How many jobs will actually materialize from this destructive project - we know that most refineries require specialized job skills that few in Kalama will possess?

Will this project prevent the Port from developing a more sustainable economic plan with a variety of smaller businesses that will provide a more stable and less risky base?

I cannot see anything in this refinery that will truly benefit Washington. Please deny the Shoreline Permit and let us move on to a viable and more sustainable future.