

Matter of Trust Offers Clean Wave Hair Mats and Booms
Available to Help Clean Chevron Oil Spill at Richmond Refinery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **** SAN FRANCISCO, California – February 10, 2021 – Matter of Trust, established in 1998, a Bay Area nonprofit organization that links surplus with needs, offers its Clean Wave hair mats and booms to help with cleanup efforts after an oil spill at the Richmond Long Wharf yesterday afternoon. According to Contra Costa County officials, a pipeline leak at Chevron’s Richmond refinery dumped upwards of 600 gallons of petroleum into the bay.

The leak lasted from 2:40 pm until 4:30 pm on Tuesday. Officials estimate that five gallons of petroleum poured into the bay every minute, endangering local wildlife and forcing the East Bay Regional Parks District to close beaches and parks in the area to protect residents.

“Everyone benefits from petroleum in our society. People know this and want to help when there is a spill. Conventional cleanup methods involve drilling oil to make oil-based sorbent products. We propose using hair, a tested, renewable resource growing in front of our eyes,” said Lisa Gautier, co-founder and president of Matter of Trust. “Our community can act quickly by volunteering or donating hair four inches or longer.”

To assist with cleanup, rather than going to the spill site, which has hazardous chemicals, Gautier has asked Bay Area residents to safely donate hair to Matter of Trust’s Clean Wave program. The nonprofit locally felts hair mats and stuffs hair booms that soak up petrochemicals, helping to keep waterways clean. Hair absorbs three to nine times its weight in oil, making it an ideal fiber for absorbing oil after spills.

Matter of Trust played a part in the cleanup of the 2007 Cosco Busan spill in the San Francisco Bay and the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Clean Wave program keeps natural fibers from landfills, creates sustainable green jobs, and manufactures renewable material products to clean waterways. To learn more about how Bay Area residents can help Matter of Trust protect waterways, please visit MatterofTrust.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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