

Future of Chevron Station Uncertain

By Cathy Tyson

On June ninth an attorney representing Chevron applied for a permit to demolish the Chevron Gas station at the corner of Happy Valley and Mount Diablo Boulevard at a recent Redevelopment Agency meeting. The Agency adopted the resolution, subject to certain conditions.

This was an odd situation for the two parties involved, the land owner, a retired Republican political consultant based in Los Angeles and Chevron, who owns the improvements to the property: the pumps, the canopy, the building and the underground tanks. According to a recent staff report the owner wants to sell the property, and “requests removal of all service station improvements to provide a buildable lot for prospective buyers.” Due to its prime location, the land, just shy of half an acre, has surely

grown more valuable over the years.

Despite the application for demolition, Chevron claims to want to work with the land owner. “We are negotiating in good faith. We have every hope to continue our relationship with the community. We intend to stay. I can’t speak for the land owner, but we sincerely hope to re-up our lease,” said Janli Degenhardt, of Chevron Community Relations. Then why get the demolition permit?

The strange thing is, according to Associate Planner Lindy Coburn, Chevron could just close down the station and cease operations if it wanted to. Wendy Borchardt, the land owner did not immediately return calls for comment.