



NEWS

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Air District Collects \$100,000 in Penalties from Read Rite Corp.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has reached a settlement with the Read Rite Corporation for violations of air pollution regulations at Read Rite's Alameda and Santa Clara County facilities. The terms of the settlement require the Read Rite Corporation to pay the Air District \$100,000 in the form of civil penalties resulting from a number of alleged air pollution control violations, and to implement a parking cash out program for employees.

This settlement resolves violations of air pollution regulations related to an alleged failure to operate its thermal oxidizer (abatement device) in compliance with Air District permit conditions, as well as other violations alleged to have occurred between September 24, 1998 and December 13, 2002. In addition, the settlement includes the implementation of a Parking Cash Out Program over a two-year period for a minimum of 100 Read Rite employees. Parking cash out programs offer employees who have access to free parking at work the alternative of receiving subsidies for not driving alone to work and giving up their parking spaces. The employee subsidy will help preserve air quality by encouraging employees to get out of their cars and take transit, carpool, vanpool, walk, bike or telecommute to work. Employees who are part of the Read Rite's program will receive \$3 per day for participating in the program and using alternative transportation.

"This settlement is an important element in the process of insuring compliance with our regulations," said Air District Executive Officer William C. Norton. "Our penalty structure sends a clear message that continued infractions of our health-based regulations have serious monetary consequences. "In addition, the parking cash out provisions of the settlement will give an incentive to Read Rite's employees to make a clean air commute to work," Norton added.

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