



NEWS

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Air District settles case with Tesoro Refinery to pay \$497,375 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced a recent agreement with Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company to pay a \$497,375 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers violations which occurred at the Martinez facility from 2006 – 2009.

“The Air District is committed to protecting public health and air quality,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Air District regulations are designed to protect Bay Area residents and companies must be held accountable.”

The settlement covers 46 Notices of Violation that the Air District issued against Tesoro over a four-year period for various air quality violations, including excessive emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate pollution, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and smog-forming pollutants; failure to fix leaking tanks and other equipment; failure to label and inspect equipment properly; failure to conduct required source tests; improper flare sampling; and monitoring and reporting violations.

The Air District issues Notices of Violation to inform facilities that they have violated a specific air quality regulation or rule. Violators are generally required to respond to the notice within ten days and submit a description of the actions they will take to correct the problem. These actions can include shutting down operations immediately, or changing operations or equipment to come into compliance.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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