



NEWS

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Air District settles case with Martinez facility
Plains Products Terminals to pay \$116,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced a recent agreement with Plains Products Terminals LLC to pay a \$116,000 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its petroleum bulk storage and marine terminal in Martinez.

The settlement covers violations that occurred at the Martinez facility between 2008 and 2011.

"These violations remind industry that the Air District is vigilant in enforcing these air quality rules," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Air quality permits and Air District regulations are in place to ensure air quality is protected."

The settlement covers seven Notices of Violation that the Air District issued against Plains Products Terminals for violations that took place over a three-year period. Five of the infractions were operational violations involving the facility's vapor recovery system. One violation involved tank inspection activities and the last involved a gap in the roof of the oil/water separator tank of the wastewater treatment system, which was corrected that same day. None of the violations posed a significant threat to air quality or public health.

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.

All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that led to these settlements.

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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