



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 9, 2013

CONTACT: Aaron Richardson
415.749.4900

Air District hosts expert panel on air monitoring

SAN FRANCISCO - On Thursday, July 11, 2013, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will host a day-long expert panel discussion on how new approaches to air monitoring can be used to better inform communities adjacent to refineries about local air quality.

Air monitoring is used to gather data and track local air pollution trends over time.

“By convening this expert panel, we can evaluate the potential for enhancing air monitoring capabilities in communities near refineries,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We hope to gain valuable input to help the District develop cutting-edge tools that will allow us to provide more air quality information around refineries in the future.”

Experts from around the state and nation will discuss the latest air monitoring technologies and methodologies for measuring and analyzing air quality in industrial areas. During the discussion, the Desert Research Institute will also present their report, *Review of Current Air Monitoring Capabilities near Refineries in the San Francisco Bay*.

This report, commissioned by the Air District, analyzes the current air monitoring network, identifies the latest instrumentation and practices, and will serve as a starting point for the panel discussion. The day’s discussion will be used by the Air District to begin development of a community air monitoring program to be included in the agency’s proposed petroleum refinery rule. The goal of this program will be to better inform the public of the potential air quality and health impacts near refineries in the Bay Area.

The Air Monitoring Technology & Methodology Expert Panel will be open for attendance by the public and media:

Air Monitoring Technology & Methodology Expert Panel

July 11, 2013

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM & 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA

7th Floor Board Room

The panel will also be webcast on the Air District’s website. Visit <http://www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Technical-Services/Air-Monitoring-Expert-Panel.aspx>.

The public is also encouraged to submit questions during the webcast via email to: estevenson@baaqmd.gov. Comments will be answered during the public comment portion of the event.

This expert panel was convened as part of the Air District’s *Work Plan for Action Items Related to Accidental Releases from Industrial Facilities*. This plan was developed following the August 2012 fire at the Chevron refinery in Richmond. The goal is to further the Air District’s response, communications and monitoring capabilities for assisting responding agencies during significant industrial events. Action items in this plan include the evaluation of enhancements to the Air District’s air quality monitoring systems, as well as a potential rule requiring expanded community monitoring near refineries.

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.

###