



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

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Air District settles case with Valero Refinery *Company to pay \$300,300 for air quality violations*

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that Valero Refining Company has agreed to pay a \$300,300 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its petroleum refinery in Benicia.

The settlement resolves 33 notices of violation issued between 2011 and 2012. None of the violations posed a significant threat to public health.

“This penalty against Valero serves as a reminder to the industry to be more vigilant in daily maintenance and operations,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Air quality regulations provide for strict oversight of industrial emissions in order to safeguard air quality and protect public health.”

Twelve of the violations involved omissions from a valves and connectors database that Valero uses to comply with Air District component inspection requirements. Valero uncovered the problem and has worked to remedy the issue.

Six of the violations involved late flare gas samples, which are required every three hours by Air District regulation. Valero took the samples manually after automated samples were deemed unsuitable for analysis. The remaining violations involved short-term emission excesses measured by monitoring equipment or leaks from pressure vacuum valves on tanks.

The Air District issues Notices of Violation to inform facilities that they have violated a specific air quality regulation or rule. Many violations against refineries are self-reported by the facilities. 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.

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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