



NEWS

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Air District Board passes resolution addressing refinery emissions

SAN FRANCISCO - Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors adopted a resolution that will further protect Bay Area communities by committing the agency to develop a strategy to achieve further emission reductions from petroleum refineries.

This resolution outlines an ambitious approach to both track and further reduce refinery emissions through an aggressive implementation schedule. Included in the resolution is a goal to reduce refinery emissions by 20-percent or as much as feasible. The Air District will present an evaluation of refinery emission-reduction approaches and recommend a strategy by December 2014.

"Today, the Air District has taken another bold step to protect public health in the Bay Area," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's executive officer. "We are confident that working in cooperation with the public and the refineries we can continue to achieve groundbreaking initiatives to reduce pollution and improve air quality."

The Bay Area has five major oil refineries that produce air pollution and greenhouse gases in the region. These are already subject to 21 specific Air District regulations and programs, and their overall emissions have been steadily decreasing.

Under this resolution, the Air District will continue to prepare its Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking rule, which will require updated health risk assessments and add further fence-line and neighborhood monitoring capacity, as well as requiring the compilation of an annual emission inventory. The Air District will also continue to prepare a companion rule to set emissions thresholds and mitigate potential increases at refineries. These rules are projected to be presented to the Board for adoption in 2015.

Today's action directs the Air District to develop a strategy based on an evaluation of a range of approaches to further reduce refinery emissions.

This strategy will ultimately result in a set of rules designed to reduce refinery emissions, which are expected to be adopted by the end of 2015.

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

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