



# NEWS

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## **Air District settles case with Tesoro**

*Refinery to pay \$285,000 for air quality violation*

**SAN FRANCISCO** - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced a recent agreement with Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. to pay a \$285,000 civil penalty to settle a single air quality violation at its Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers one violation notice, issued to Tesoro in connection with a water vapor leak discovered at a cooling tower at Tesoro's Golden Eagle Refinery in September 2010. The leak continued for at least 13 days and caused an estimated 52 tons of hydrocarbon emissions.

"Bay Area refineries will be held responsible for any violations of air quality regulations," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The Air District has a responsibility to ensure that the company complies with all air quality regulations and makes the necessary changes to ensure that violations don't reoccur."

Corroded tubing allowed organic compounds to enter the cooling system water and be emitted from the cooling tower. Tesoro missed early indications that a leak was occurring.

In response to this incident, Tesoro conducted an investigation and repaired the equipment. It also took steps to increase oversight of its cooling water system contractors and drafted a new cooling water system operating procedure plan.

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 work that led to this settlement.

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

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