



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District to host open houses for new draft refinery rules

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is hosting a series of open houses to discuss the agency's four new and amended draft petroleum refinery emissions reduction rules.

"Bay Area refineries are subject to some of the strictest regulations in the country, and these proposed rules will serve to further reduce emissions and protect public health in neighboring communities," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Open house events give community members and other stakeholders an ideal opportunity to learn about the air quality benefits of these rules and make their voices heard in our rule-making process."

The open houses will be held at the following times and locations:

Martinez

Tuesday, September 15
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Las Juntas Elementary School
4105 Pacheco Blvd.

Benicia

Thursday, September 17
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Robert Semple Elementary School
2015 East Third Street

Richmond

Monday, September 28
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Lincoln Elementary School
29 Sixth Street

As part of the Air District's Refinery Emissions Reduction Strategy, the agency is developing and amending a suite of regulations in an effort to further reduce emissions of key air pollutants from Bay Area refineries by 20 percent, or as much as feasible, by 2020. These open houses will cover the first set of four proposed regulations:

- **New Regulation 6, Rule 5: Fluid Catalytic Cracking Units** would limit ammonia emissions from fluid catalytic cracking units, in order to reduce associated formation of fine particulate matter.
- **Amended Regulation 8, Rule 18: Equipment Leaks** would further reduce emissions of organic compounds, toxics and methane by broadening the equipment leak standards to include all equipment handling heavy liquids.
- **New Regulation 9, Rule 14: Petroleum Coke Calcining** would reduce sulfur dioxide from coke calcining processes, which would also reduce particulate matter formation.

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- **Amended Regulation 11, Rule 10: Cooling Towers** would reduce emissions of organic compounds, toxics and methane by requiring the rapid detection, minimization and repair of leaks.

The Air District welcomes comments and questions about the draft rules at any time before, during or after the open houses until the deadline for public comments closes on **Friday, October 2, 2015**.

If you cannot attend an open house, you can review the proposed new rules and supporting documents at <http://www.baaqmd.gov/ruleworkshops> and submit public comments electronically to Greg Nudd at gnudd@baaqmd.gov or call 415-749-4786.

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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