



NEWS

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CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900

Air District settles case with Chevron
Refinery to pay \$146,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today announced a recent settlement with Chevron U.S.A to pay a \$146,000 civil penalty for air quality violations at its refinery in Richmond.

The settlement covers 22 notices of violation that the Air District issued for incidents that occurred between 2012 and 2014.

“The Air District will continue to take action to ensure refineries follow all regulations for operations, both big and small, that are in place to protect public health,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This settlement will help ensure this facility, as well as others, follow the rules and reduce their overall emissions.”

The violations included the discharge of hydrogen sulfide and other pollutants released through flaring, heavy smoke from flaring, failure to take flare samples, and excess carbon monoxide from furnace operations. The violations have all been corrected.

The Air District is proposing four new rules that will require even tougher emissions limits, more monitoring and quicker equipment repairs and upgrades to help meet the Air District’s ambitious 20 percent refinery emissions reduction goal by 2020.

The Air District issues Notices of Violation when facilities violate 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 operation immediately, or changing operations or equipment to come into compliance.

Settlement funds will be used toward 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) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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