



NEWS

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Air District settles case with Tesoro *Refinery to pay \$646,140 for air quality violations*

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. has agreed to pay \$646,140 to settle air pollution violations at its Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers 36 notices of violation issued to Tesoro for non-compliance at its Refinery in 2012.

“The Air District works to ensure that facilities like Tesoro are held strictly accountable for following all federal, state and local rules which limit air pollution,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “When we find infractions, we investigate and cite the facility including significant financial penalties, to ensure the facility quickly comes back into compliance with rules safeguarding public health.”

The majority of the 36 NOVs were issued for problems with Tesoro's Leak Detection and Repair, or LDAR Program. The Air District enforces stringent LDAR regulations that require facilities such as Tesoro to periodically inspect for leaking equipment and swiftly repair all leaks found. If a facility discovers and promptly records and repairs a leak, it remains in compliance with Air District regulations, but if the facility fails to inspect, delays in recording or repairing a leak, or if the Air District discovers a leak, a violation notice is issued.

The 36 NOVs also include seven issued for leaking pressure relief valves on storage tanks, an NOV issued for exposing storage tank contents to the atmosphere and three additional tank leak problems. One NOV was issued for failing to properly repair leaking vapor hoses. The group of NOVs also includes several violations of emission-based standards, the failure to conduct required source tests on time and reporting violations. All the violations that led to this settlement have been corrected.

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.

All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities 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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