



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Air District adopts pioneering rule reducing toxic air pollutants**

*Further protects communities near facilities by reducing health risks from toxic air pollutants*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors unanimously adopted Regulation 11-18, *Reduction of Risk from Air Toxic Emissions at Existing Facilities*, considered to be the most health-protective toxic air pollution risk control measure in the nation.

The rule will improve air quality and reduce emissions in communities from stationary air pollution sources, from large facilities such as power plants and oil refineries, to smaller operations like back-up generators and dry cleaners emitting hazardous air pollutants that may cause cancer or other serious health effects. Hundreds of Bay Area facilities will be affected by the rule.

“The Air District has been developing rules to reduce toxic air pollutants for many decades and today’s rule is an important next step to ensure air quality improves for all Bay Area communities,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This rule is a critical step toward controlling toxic air pollutants from facilities, delivering cleaner air for our most vulnerable communities and providing the most health-protective standards in the nation.”

Rule 11-18 was developed to ensure that emissions of toxic air pollutants from existing facilities do not pose an unacceptable health risk. Health risk levels at Bay Area facilities would be determined by health risk assessments using guidelines from the state of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

Air District staff will now begin the process of assessing and prioritizing facilities. Health risk assessments for each facility will use the latest science. During the risk evaluation process, the public will have an opportunity to review and provide input on the risk assessments before they are finalized. Any facility shown to pose a health risk at or above the risk action levels in the rule would be required to take steps to reduce that risk, and to report annually to the Air District. The process will allow for flexibility in compliance and ensure continuous improvement in reducing toxic levels of air pollution.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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