



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF PETROLEUM REFINERY FLARE MINIMIZATION PLANS (FMPS)

## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

March 27, 2007

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER  
SUBJECT: **PETROLEUM REFINERY FLARE MINIMIZATION  
PLANS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND  
COMMENT**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District) is releasing for public review and comment the initial Flare Minimization Plans (FMP) prepared by the five Bay Area petroleum refineries subject to **Regulation 12, Rule 12, Flares at Petroleum Refineries**.

Each Flare Minimization Plan must identify and consider all measures available to reduce refinery flare emissions by minimizing the frequency and magnitude of flaring events ("prevention measures"). **Prevention measures** must address flaring as a result of planned major maintenance including startup and shutdown; flaring that may reasonably be expected to occur due to issues of vent gas quality or quantity; and flaring caused by the recurrent failure of air pollution control equipment, process equipment, or processes.

Under Regulation 12-12, each Flare Minimization Plan must include:

- Basic information regarding the design and operation of the facility as it relates to flaring;
- A description of the prevention measures previously taken or currently planned to reduce flare emissions at the refinery; and
- Commitment to implement all additional feasible prevention measures expeditiously.

It is important to note that refinery flares are first and foremost safety devices intended to protect the safety of refinery workers and the public and the integrity of the refinery. For this reason, Regulation 12-12 gives the refineries flexibility to develop an FMP specific to the unique design and operation of its facility. The regulation specifically allows flaring in emergency situations if necessary to prevent accident, hazard or release of vent gas directly into the atmosphere.

An FMP will be approved only if the District determines that all feasible prevention measures have been considered and, if not already undertaken, scheduled for expeditious implementation. Upon approval by the District, the prevention measures in the FMP (whether implemented or planned or in the form of commitments to future actions) are **enforceable regulatory requirements**. With the exception of emergency flaring necessary to prevent accident, hazard or release of vent gas to the atmosphere, all flaring must be consistent with an approved FMP.

Emissions from refinery flares are currently estimated at 1.0 tons per day of total organic compounds (TOC) and 0.65 tons per day of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). These emission levels reflect the reductions already realized as a result of actions taken by the Bay Area refineries in recent years.

(Over)

The District will conduct a series of **five public meetings** to receive public comment on the Flare Minimization Plans (FMP) required by **Regulation 12, Rule 12, Flares at Petroleum Refineries**. The meetings will be held from 6 to 8 pm for the refinery listed on the dates and at the locations below:

**April 17, 2007**

Shell Refinery  
Contra Costa County  
Board Chambers  
Room 107  
651 Pine Street  
Martinez, CA

**April 19, 2007**

Tesoro Refinery  
Ambrose Community  
Center  
3105 Willow Pass Road  
Bay Point, CA

**April 23, 2007**

ConocoPhillips  
Crockett Community  
Center  
850 Pomona Street  
Crockett, CA

**April 30, 2007**

Chevron Refinery  
Richmond Auditorium  
403 Civic Center Plaza  
"Bermuda Room"  
Richmond, CA

**May 3, 2007**

Valero Refinery  
Benicia Public Library  
150 East "L" Street  
Benicia, CA

**60-day Public  
Comment Period  
April 2, 2007 to  
May 31, 2007**

**AGENDA FOR EACH MEETING:**

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Reg. 12-12 Requirements and the FMP Process (5-minutes)
3. Facility Presentation (15-minutes)
4. Public Comments & Questions and Answers

Each refinery's Flare Minimization Plan is now available for review and public comment. The 60-day public review period begins April 2, 2007 and ends May 31, 2007. The plans can be obtained from any of the following sources:

- At the District offices at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California
- On the District website ([www.baaqmd.gov/flares](http://www.baaqmd.gov/flares))
- At the reference desk at public libraries in the following cities: Martinez, Concord, Benicia, San Pablo, Rodeo, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Pinole, Hercules, Richmond and Crockett
- By request by calling (415) 749-4999. A copy will be mailed out.

Comments on any of the Flare Minimization Plans must be submitted no later than May 31, 2007:

- By mail addressed to: BAAQMD–FMP Public Comment, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
- By Email to: [compliance@baaqmd.gov](mailto:compliance@baaqmd.gov)
- Orally or in writing at any of the public meetings noticed above.

**Be sure to identify which refinery, or refineries, your comment is applicable to.**

After consideration of public comments received, the District will evaluate each refinery's Flare Minimization Plan to determine whether it meets the requirements of Regulation 12-12 and will take final action in accordance with the regulation. For any additional information, please visit the District website at [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or contact Douglas Tolar, Senior Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-5118 or email [dtolar@baaqmd.gov](mailto:dtolar@baaqmd.gov).

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the public meetings. Please see the following web sites for help in locating available public transportation:

[www.transit.511.org](http://www.transit.511.org), [www.bayareatransit.net](http://www.bayareatransit.net), [www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local\\_gov/transit.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local_gov/transit.html)