

June 26, 2013

Jack Broadbent, Executive Officer
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: **Support for Draft Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking Rule**

Dear Director Broadbent and Staff,

We, the undersigned, are writing to you on behalf of our organizations and our many thousands of Bay Area members in strong support of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District ("Air District") preliminary draft refinery emission tracking regulation released in March 2013. While refineries in the region are subject to Air District regulations as well as Title V Clean Air Act permits through your agency, we are concerned that emissions increases could occur at refineries processing dirtier crude oils including Canadian tar sands; without this important regulation, these increases are unlikely to be accounted for. This regulation will also ensure that increases in refinery emissions are either prevented or mitigated, assuring no increased risks to the health of residents.

We are very supportive of the Air District regulatory effort that would apply to all Bay Area oil refineries and would, for the first time, address all emissions from each refinery comprehensively, and all potential causal factors that can increase emissions, including changes in crude feed quality. However, because the communities near refineries have historically endured disproportionately high levels of pollution and emissions from refineries remain quite high, we believe it is important to go a step further than the current proposal and *prevent* any emissions increases from occurring. ***We urge the Air District to explore different pro-active approaches to prevent refinery emission increases as part of this regulation, including actively monitoring crude oil quality and ensuring continuous air quality improvement at any facilities not currently using "Best Available Control Technology" throughout (as outlined by Communities for a Better Environment et al. in their June 13, 2013 comments).***

We support many aspects of the preliminary draft regulation such as broad pollutant coverage including Toxic Air Contaminants in addition to criteria pollutants, the comprehensive scope covering the full refinery including carbon-intensive hydrogen production, rigorous emission inventory reporting, and new requirements for fence-line and community air monitoring systems around each refinery. Together with a more pro-active approach to preventing emissions increases, these provisions will go a long way to reducing the risk of harm due to air pollution and preventing increases in health and safety risks to communities.

We applaud the Air District for embarking on this complex rulemaking to further protect the health and welfare of its refinery-adjacent residents, and to improve performance and

accountability in the refining sector. As several Bay Area refineries consider new sources of crude oils, some of which may be heavier and more corrosive, increasing the risk of accidents and greater air pollution, the timing of this regulation is critical.

Sincerely,

Jenny Bard, Regional Director, Programs and Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Joel Ervice, Associate Director
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP)

Michelle Meyers, Director of the San Francisco Bay Chapter
Sierra Club

Denny Larson, Executive Director
Global Community Monitor

Pierre Delforge, Steering Committee Member
350 Silicon Valley

David Schonbrunn, President
Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund (TRANSDEF)

Margaret Gordon and Frank Gallo, Steering Committee Members
Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative

Jill Ratner, President
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment

Myesha Williams, Co-Director
New Voices Are Rising

Andy Katz
Director of Air Quality Advocacy
Breathe California