BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann**
November 14, 2014   **415.749.4900**

Air District settles case with Tesoro
Refinery to pay $260,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced a recent agreement with Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. to pay a $260,000 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers 23 notices of violation that the Air District issued for incidents that occurred in 2011.

"Refineries have an obligation to their neighbors to ensure they operate within the strict limits of their air quality permits," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "These are large industrial facilities located in urban areas and therefore missteps in their operations will not be tolerated."

Violations include:

- Nitrogen oxides emissions excesses
- Tank leak violations
- Sulfur dioxide emissions
- Visible emissions
- Overwhelming flare system on May 12, 2011, causing odors that generated multiple complaints in the surrounding community
- Inadequate flaring causal report after a flaring event later in 2011
- Reporting and monitoring violations

Several violations were self-disclosed by Tesoro. All violations have been corrected by the facility in accordance with Air District requirements.

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 operations 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 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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2014-068