



# NEWS

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## **Air District Board adopts new refinery rule and two amendments** *Targets up to 20 percent reduction in air pollutants*

**SAN FRANCISCO** - Today the Air District's Board of Directors unanimously adopted one rule and two new rule amendments, part of a larger overall suite of new refinery-focused regulations, which further tighten air pollution controls on petroleum refining activity in the Bay Area. They include:

- Amendments to Regulation 8 (Organic Compounds), Rule 18 (Equipment Leaks), will broaden standards to include all equipment handling heavy liquids.
- Amendments to Regulation 11 (Hazardous Pollutants), Rule 10 (Hexavalent Chromium and Total Hydrocarbon from Petroleum Refinery Cooling Towers), will reduce organic compounds, toxics and methane by requiring rapid detection, minimization and repair of leaks.
- New Regulation 6, Rule 5 (Particulate Emissions from Refinery Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units), will establish new limits and control requirements.

"Bay Area refineries are already subject to some of the strictest regulations in the country," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The three rules adopted today are expected to make significant progress towards reducing refinery emissions from current levels."

The new rules stem from an October 2014 Air District Board of Directors resolution instructing staff to develop a regulatory strategy that would further reduce emissions from local refineries. The current amendments are the first step in implementing the Air District's Refinery Emissions Reduction Strategy, which will reduce emissions from Bay Area refineries by as much as 20 percent by 2020.

The strategy has been broken into two parts, based on issues of timing. The amendments passed today can be implemented more quickly, while three additional amendments continue to wind their way through the public review process. They will be considered by the Air District Board later in 2016.

The four-part refinery reduction strategy focuses on:

- Reducing harmful emissions
- Installing more continuous monitoring
- Limiting pollution & protecting health
- Ensuring best practices

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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