



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

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Air District Board of Directors to cap refinery greenhouse gases

First in the nation rule would cap refinery GHG emissions

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air District Board of Directors set the stage for Regulation 12, Rule 16 to cap greenhouse gas emissions from the region’s five refineries, creating a model for the state and nation to follow.

This proposed action will provide a back-stop to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from increasing as potentially dirtier crude oil comes into the region for processing. To date, greenhouse gases regionally have been offset due to refineries purchasing credits on the open market elsewhere to meet California requirements. Regulation 12, Rule 16 will cap greenhouse gases at the source, helping to achieve the statewide and Bay Area GHG reduction targets.

“Today’s action by the Air District Board demonstrates local leadership, ensuring that refinery greenhouse gas emissions do not increase, providing a model for California and beyond,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Refineries are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases from stationary industrial sources in the Bay Area. This rule will be part of a larger effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where they are emitted. This action is important in light of the anticipated withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement by the president.”

A suite of rules has been developed over the past four years that work together to further address public health, air pollutants and air monitoring from refineries. Taken together – these refinery regulations are the most health-protective in the nation.

The Air District will continue to work collaboratively with the state in a larger campaign to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from refineries and other regional stationary sources such as energy production, manufacturing and Portland cement facilities.

The revised rule capping greenhouse gas emissions will be brought before the Air District Board of Directors at the June 21 meeting for consideration.

The Air District is currently developing Regulation 11, Rule 18 which will address risk from toxic air contaminants from all significant sources in the Bay Area including refineries. This rule will be presented to the Air District’s Board of Directors in September for consideration.

The Air District Board of Directors adopted the 2017 Clean Air Plan, *Spare the Air, Cool the Climate* in April. This bold vision outlines 85 measures to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases throughout the region. *Spare the Air, Cool the Climate* provides direction for the Air District to partner with other agencies, government organizations, academia, cities and counties to improve air quality and reduce regional greenhouse gas impact by the year 2050.

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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