



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

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Air District issues 4 violations to Chevron refinery for 2016 odor incident *Facility determined as source of rotten-egg odor in SF & Richmond last December*

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced it has issued four violations to the Chevron refinery in Richmond for the December 28, 2016, incident that resulted in an upset and flaring at the refinery and many odor complaints in San Francisco and Richmond.

The Air District vigorously investigated the potential sources of this sulfur odor and determined that the foul smell was caused by releases at the Chevron refinery. The notices of violation include:

Incident Date	Notice of Violation
December 28, 2016 AM event	Ground-Level Monitor Excess – Hydrogen Sulfide
December 28, 2016 AM event	Public Nuisance Violation
December 28, 2016 PM event	Ground-Level Monitor Excess – Hydrogen Sulfide
December 28, 2016 PM event	Public Nuisance Violation

“This incident caused widespread concern throughout San Francisco and Richmond and was investigated thoroughly by the Air District as well as Contra Costa County Department of Health Services,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “In addition to being cited for this incident, Chevron will be required to make changes to their operations to ensure it doesn’t happen again. We will be seeking the maximum penalties available to us for this incident.”

Multiple sources were examined in the comprehensive investigation that was centered in west Contra Costa County. The Air District analyzed data from Chevron’s fence line ground-level and nearby air quality monitors in the investigation of the source. The Air District also studied air monitoring and weather data as well as operational conditions at potential sources in the San Francisco and Richmond areas, where the odor complaints were centered. Fines and penalties are under review and will be levied on a future date.

The Air District collaborated with Contra Costa County Department of Health, the City of San Francisco, the San Francisco Fire Department and PG&E to determine the source of the odor.

An ongoing, chronic odor that has been reported since November 2016 in the Richmond area is still under investigation by the Air District and city and county agencies.

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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