



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 29, 2017

CONTACT: Tom Flannigan, 415-749-4900

Air District settles case with Valero Refining Co.

Refinery to pay \$142,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO – On December 28, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that Valero Refining Co. agreed to pay \$142,000 to settle violations at its refinery in Benicia.

The settlement covers a group of 20 notices of violation issued to the company for non-compliance with air quality regulations at its operations that occurred largely in 2015. The violations that led to this settlement were corrected soon after they were discovered.

“Refineries located in the region are expected to follow strict air quality rules which limit air pollution or be subject to vigorous enforcement action from the Air District,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Financial penalties are a useful tool to prevent future violations and to protect public health in the surrounding Bay Area communities.”

The notices of violation included:

- Eight violations involved brief exceedances of emission limits, all of which were detected by monitors that continuously measure emissions from refinery equipment.
- Three violations were minor hydrocarbon leaks from storage tanks or lines.
- Two violations involved errors in an inspection database that resulted in missed leak inspections for valves omitted from the database.
- Five violations were administrative violations.
- One violation was for a failed monitor accuracy test.
- One violation was for failure to meet a permit limit for hydrocarbon emissions from the wastewater plant.

The violations that led to this settlement have been corrected. All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that led to this settlement.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

###

*Air District Communications Office
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
[Air District Homepage](#) | [News Releases](#)*