



NEWS

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CONTACTS: Ralph Borrmann (Air District)
415.749.4900
Vicky Balladares
(Contra Costa Health Services)
925.383-9367

Air District, Contra Costa Health Services investigation into foul odor in SF & Richmond narrows

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Contra Costa Health Services continue to work together to investigate the source of odors that fouled San Francisco and Richmond on December 28th and 29th.

The joint investigation has ruled out any sources on San Francisco Bay including ships or oil spills on the water. The investigation is now centered on Chevron's Richmond refinery and other potential sources in Richmond such as the waste water treatment plant, waste management facility and other industrial sources that could have been the cause of the odors.

"As we continue to investigate the foul odors in Richmond and San Francisco, the Air District will build a case for potential violations against the responsible facility," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The Air District continues to believe that the penalty ceilings available in law today are not always high enough to incentivize good behavior."

The Air District is reviewing all flaring records, in-stack monitoring data, sampling data and air monitoring data for all industrial facilities in Richmond to rule out other sources and pinpoint the origin of the odor in San Francisco and Richmond late last year.

"Contra Costa Health Services staff are in discussions with Chevron on their notifications of the two flaring incidents and the high readings of hydrogen sulfide from a ground level monitor located in Point Richmond," said Randy Sawyer Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer. "Contra Costa Health Services will continue to work with the Air District in determining the source of the odors in Richmond and San Francisco and any enforcement that may be taken."

The investigation will likely continue for several weeks and the Air District and Contra Costa Health Services will release the results of the joint investigation and announce potential violations against the facility found to be at fault.

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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