



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2019

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Air District settles case with Shell Oil Products

Refinery to pay \$165,000 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that Shell Oil Products has agreed to pay \$165,000 to settle air quality violations at its petroleum refinery in Martinez.

The settlement covers 16 notices of violation issued to the company for non-compliance with air quality regulations during its operations that occurred in October 2015 and in 2016. The violations that led to this settlement were corrected soon after they were discovered.

“Bay Area refineries are subject to stringent national, state and local air quality regulations which are enforced by the Air District,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Dedicated air quality inspectors do regular inspections to help ensure that violations are corrected quickly and air quality is protected.”

Four of the violations stemmed from an incident in December 2016 that was due to an operator error. The error was corrected within a few minutes but resulted in sulfur dioxide emission exceedances, three opacity exceedances and a shelter-in-place.

Other violations included:

- An overdue vessel cargo tank check for emission leaks
- Broken tank seals on an organic liquid storage tank
- Opacity exceedances, and sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide exceedances

The Air District issues notices of violation when facilities violate a specific air quality regulation or rule. Violators are required to respond to the notice within ten days and submit a description of the actions they will take to correct the problem. These actions can include shutting down certain operations immediately or changing operations or equipment to come into compliance.

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](#).

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