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Court approves Lehigh Cement settlement to reduce air emissions in Cupertino

Tightened emission limits & pollution controls to improve local air quality

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing today that a consent decree lodged last year in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by the Air District, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other local agencies with Lehigh Cement and Lehigh White Cement to reduce harmful air emissions has been approved by the court.

The settlement will reduce harmful air emissions at Lehigh Cement and Lehigh White Cement portland cement manufacturing plants nationwide, including their Cupertino plant. The settlement resolves alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. As part of the settlement, Lehigh will invest \$12 million in pollution control technology at 11 of their portland cement manufacturing plants, three of which are in California.

“The Air District will ensure the terms of this settlement are followed through strict oversight of Lehigh’s Cupertino facility,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Tightened pollution controls and emissions limits resulting from this settlement will help protect air quality and safeguard the health of those in surrounding communities.”

In addition to investing in pollution control technology, Lehigh will:

- Pay \$119,353 to the Air District as part of a total of \$1.3 million in civil penalties to U.S. EPA and state and local regulatory agencies.
- Be required to meet tightened emission limits of nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide.
- Embark on a “test and set” protocol over the next year to determine the lowest possible sulfur dioxide emissions rate that can be attained at the Cupertino facility.
- Address visible emissions of kiln stack plumes by preparing a protocol specifically for the Cupertino facility which details all steps taken to mitigate excess visible emissions.

“This is one of many actions the Air District has taken and will continue to take to reduce particulate matter to be more protective of human health,” said Rod Sinks, chair of the Air District Board of Directors. “Reducing fine particulate matter from the Lehigh kiln near Cupertino will benefit residents across the Bay Area.”

Nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide are two key pollutants emitted from cement plants that are damaging to the environment and can cause health impacts. The reduction of these pollutants is also expected to reduce fine particulate matter emissions from the facility.

More information about this consent decree: <https://bit.ly/39zIWMI>.

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

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