

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tina Landis, 415.940.3585

Air District strengthens permit rules to better protect overburdened communities

Community-led effort informed amendments for more stringent health risk limits

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Board of Directors today adopted amendments to Regulation 2, Rule 1: General Requirements, and Regulation 2, Rule 5: New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants to better address air pollution in areas overburdened by environmental and health stressors.

Although air quality in the region has improved and cancer risk from pollution has declined drastically since 1990, pollution exposure remains uneven at the local level. The state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment recently released CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool indicates areas with poor air quality tend to have higher community health vulnerability.

“The rule amendments adopted today are a step toward healing inequities faced by overburdened communities by tightening controls on industry,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “New data is allowing us to pinpoint the Bay Area communities most impacted by toxic air contaminants and implement changes that can result in real health improvements for these residents.”

To address these localized health impacts in overburdened communities, Air District staff met with community advocacy organizations to develop potential concepts and hear recommendations on how the permitting process could be more health protective. Through a series of public workshops and a public comment period, Air District staff drafted proposed amendments to Rule 2-1 and Rule 2-5 that will:

- Define overburdened communities
- Set more stringent cancer risk limit in overburdened communities to 6 in 1 million
- Enhance public notifications for projects within overburdened communities
- Update gasoline dispensing facilities health risk screening guidelines
- Extend permit review timelines

Common sources of toxic air contaminants that may be impacted by these rule amendments are stationary engines, gas stations, soil vapor extraction, crematoria and others. More information regarding Rule 2-1 and Rule 2-5 is available at baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/current-rules.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](https://www.baaqmd.gov) 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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Air District Communications Office
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
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