

Compliance and Enforcement Division
INCIDENT REPORT
October 22, 2026
Richmond/Chevron Refinery, Site #A0010
845 Chevron Way, Richmond, California
(Updated: October 26, 2026)

On Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 6:09pm the Air District began receiving multiple complaints alleging rotten egg or sulfur odors in the Richmond area. Air District staff immediately began contacting complainants and deployed in the Richmond area to investigate the source of the odor.

At around 8:30pm on October 22, 2026, Air District staff traced the odors to the Castro Street Richmond Parkway area. Odors were strongest at Vernon Ave and 7th Street,

The Air District's nearby Richmond 7th Street monitoring site measured peak 1-hour average hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) concentrations above 200 parts per billion (ppb) at 8 pm (see Figure 2). For context, the acute (one-hour) reference exposure level (REL) for H₂S established by OEHHA is 30 ppb. At the Richmond – 7th Street station, one-hour average concentrations exceeded this 30 ppb acute REL for six of the nine hours between 5:00 pm October 22 and 1:00 am October 23. During this time, several of Chevron's fenceline, Ground-Level and Community monitors also measured elevated H₂S levels above this REL from North Richmond to Atchison Village. After midnight, H₂S concentrations rose in Point Richmond as well and reached hourly average concentrations of about 10 ppb. During the evening of October 22, winds were generally light to moderate (3 to 10 miles per hour) from the west and northwest. After 12:30 am on October 23, 2026, conditions became stagnant with winds speeds below 1 mile per hour, letting the plume disperse more broadly. H₂S levels returned to typical background levels at all air monitors by 4:00 am, on October 23, 2026. Real time H₂S data can be found on the [Air District's website](#) and [Chevron's fenceline air monitoring website](#).

On October 22, 2026 at 10:45pm, Air District staff arrived on site at the Chevron Refinery and met with Chevron staff to further investigate the source of the odor. Chevron and Air District staff were able to trace the H₂S odors to an area of the refinery just downwind of the refinery flares.

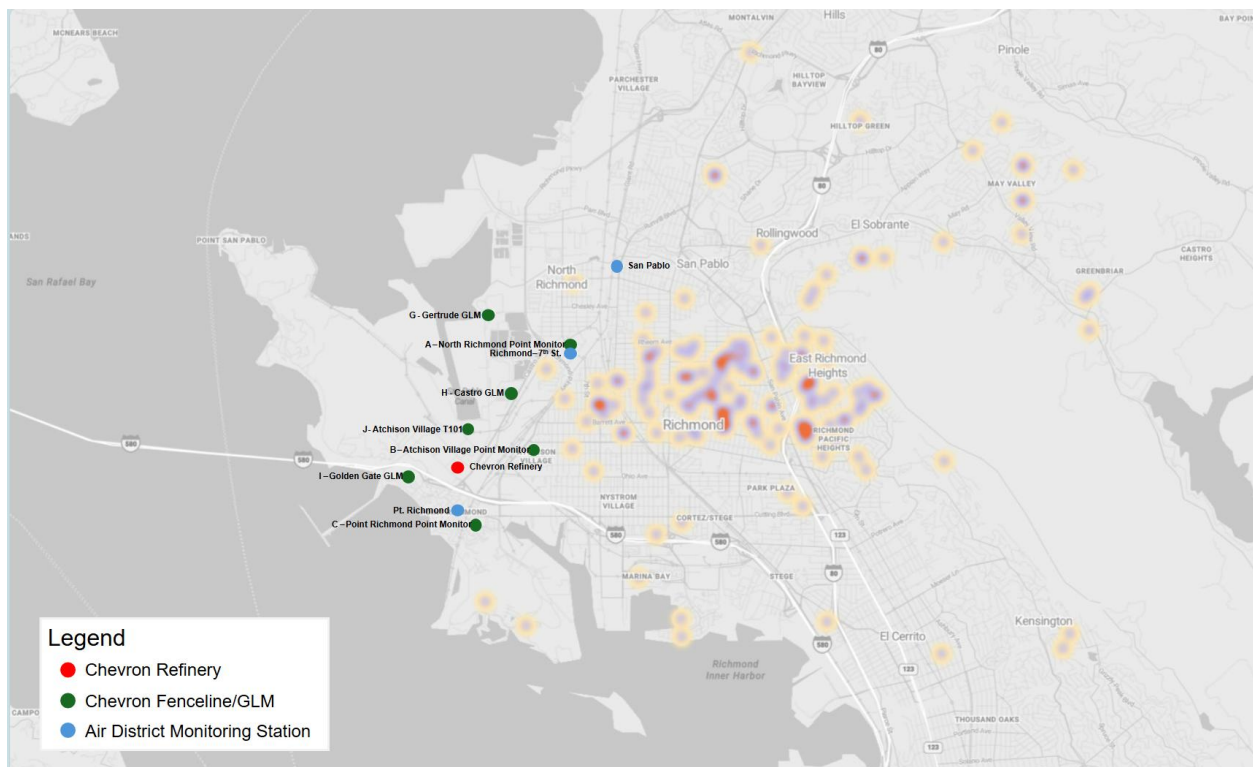
At 12:19 am on October 23, Chevron generated a Level 1 Community Warning System (CWS) alert. The alert noted an ongoing H₂S release that migrated offsite. The alert acknowledged inquiries from the public about an offsite impact. While the CWS alert lists the date and time of release at 12:10 am on October 23, community complaints and Air District staff observations suggest the release occurred hours earlier, during the evening of October 22.

Chevron also provided a [72-hour report](#) as required by the Contra Costa County Fire Prevention District. Chevron's 72-hour report indicates that the release involved hydrocarbons containing H₂S and ammonia (NH₃), with both pollutants potentially exceeding their respective reportable quantities of 100 pounds per day. The Air District is seeking additional information to assess potential community impacts.

Air District staff continued investigating the reported H₂S odor incident on Friday, October 23, 2026 and conducted a joint refinery walkthrough with Chevron environmental staff, during which H₂S odors were detected onsite at approximately 10:21 a.m. At 3:26 pm, Chevron notified the Air District that it had identified the source of the emissions as the refinery flare system. Chevron later informed Air District staff that the emissions were mitigated at 4:56 p.m. Air District inspectors conducted off-site patrols on October 24 and 25 and did not detect any odors.

The Air District received 226 community [air quality complaints](#) about this incident as of the date of this report. See heat map of complainant locations in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: H₂S Monitor Locations and Complainant Heat Map:



On October 26, 2026, the Air District issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Chevron Richmond Refinery for public nuisance. For more information on any NOVs that were issued, please refer to the [NOV web tool](#) on the Air District website.

The Air District's investigation of this incident remains ongoing. The Air District will provide updates to this incident report as the investigation progresses.

Figure 2: Hourly averaged H_2S Concentrations in Richmond and North Richmond
October 22-23, 2026

