



NEWS

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Air District settles case with Valero

Refinery to pay \$122,500 for air quality violations

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that Valero Refining Company has agreed to pay a \$122,500 civil penalty to settle air quality violations at its refinery in Benicia.

The settlement covers 25 notices of violation that the Air District issued to Valero for incidents that occurred in 2011.

“Bay Area refineries must operate within strict federal, state and local air quality regulations that protect air quality and public health,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Violations of air quality regulations, no matter how minor, must be addressed and refineries held accountable.”

Among the violation notices settled were: one for a public nuisance caused by odors from operations at the refinery wastewater treatment plant; 14 others for brief violations of emission limits as measured by monitors on refinery equipment; some others for minor leaks from pentane or butane tanks; and some for minor administrative violations.

The Air District issues notices of violation to inform facilities that they have violated a specific air quality regulation or rule. Violators are generally required to respond to the notice within 10 days and submit a description of the actions they will take to correct the problem. These actions can include shutting down 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 (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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