



NEWS

November 4, 2002

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Air District Collects \$510,000 in Penalties from Equilon/Shell

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has reached a settlement with the Equilon/Shell Martinez Refinery for violations of air pollution regulations. The terms of the settlement require Equilon/Shell to pay the Air District \$510,000 in the form of civil penalties resulting from a number of air pollution control violations.

This settlement resolves violations of air pollution regulations related to releases of air contaminants from failures at the fluid catalytic cracking unit at the Martinez Refinery from October 12 through 17, 2001 and on December 25, 2001. In addition, the settlement includes several other unrelated violations that occurred from 2000 through 2002 at the refinery.

Other violations of Air District regulations from the October and December 2001 releases were referred to the Contra Costa County District Attorney for criminal prosecution, and were recently settled for a \$405,000 criminal penalty. The settlement also provides an additional \$270,000 to be used for environmental projects in the community.

"The settlement of these violation notices is an important element in the process of insuring compliance with our regulations," said Air District Executive Officer William C. Norton. "Many of these violations occurred over multiple days and therefore substantially increased the amount of the penalties," he said. "Our penalty structure sends a clear message that continued infractions of our health-based regulations have serious consequences," Norton added.

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