



NEWS RELEASE

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Hearing Board approves abatement order to end significant air quality violations at Valero

Refinery required to stop excess emissions at their Benicia facility

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that its independent Hearing Board, a quasi-judicial independent body authorized under state law, has approved an abatement order for Valero Refining Co. to cease unreported emissions at its Benicia oil refinery as safely and expeditiously as possible.

The abatement order establishes the requirements and a schedule for Valero to design, engineer, permit and construct a project to stop the excess emissions. The order also provides conditions for Valero to minimize emissions during normal operations, pending completion of the project. The order goes into effect immediately.

“The Hearing Board’s decisive action today will ensure that Valero ends these excess emissions to protect the health and safety of those in the surrounding community,” said Damian Breen, senior deputy executive officer of the Air District. “The Air District will now focus on assessing penalties commensurate with the seriousness of the violation and that will act as a deterrent against similar violations in the future.”

During the interim period, Valero will continue to minimize the potential for pollutants to be emitted by continuing operation of internal piping installed to redirect hydrogen to a lower-pressure location.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) 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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