

## Compliance and Enforcement Division **INCIDENT REPORT**

December 15, 2023

**Martinez Refining Company, Site # A0011**  
**3485 Pacheco Blvd**  
**Martinez, California**

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) staff noticed a plume coming from Martinez Refining Company (MRC) in Martinez at 8:56 a.m. this morning during a routine patrol around the refinery (See photo below). Air District received Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) Level 1 Alerts at 9:17 a.m. and 9:35 a.m., reporting pluming and flaring, respectively at MRC. At 9:00 a.m., Air District staff contacted the refinery and determined they had experienced a major upset. At 1038, this event was upgraded by Contra Costa County Health to a Level 2 Alert due to odors in the community.

As of 4:00 p.m., Air District staff have received and responded to 58 air quality complaints in Martinez, San Pablo, Richmond and El Sobrante. The complainants have primarily alleged sulfur and gas odors and some regarding flaring. The wind direction throughout the day was from the east and northeast with speeds ranging from 4-9 miles per hour.



Air District staff issued notice of violation (NOV) A58118 to MRC for violation of Air District Regulation 1 Section 301, Public Nuisance, for offsite odors traced to back to the refinery and the overall impacts of this event on the public. At 2:30 p.m., Air District staff met with MRC staff to discuss the plant upset.

The Air District mobile monitoring van was deployed in San Pablo and Martinez to monitor for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) emissions. At this time, no violations of the applicable Air District regulatory standards for SO<sub>2</sub> (Regulation 9 Rule 1) and H<sub>2</sub>S (Regulation 9 Rule 2) were observed.

Air District staff has been in communication with Contra Costa County Health throughout the event.

The incident is currently on going, and Air District inspection staff will continue to patrol the area around MRC and respond to complaints. The incident report will be updated as new information becomes available. For more information on the NOV issued, please click the link to the [NOV web tool](#).