



CITIZEN, ACTIVIST INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

350 Bay Area Urges Local Air Authorities to Pass Landmark Refinery “Cat Cracker” Emissions Rule, to Protect Community Health -- Hearing on June 2nd

Particulate matter pollution is estimated to kill up to 3,000 Bay Area residents every year.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. June 1, 2021 – [350 Bay Area](#), the local climate action organization, along with 34 other environmental, faith and youth groups, urges the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) to pass the “Cat Cracker” Rule 6-5 at its June 2 Board of Directors meeting. If passed, this landmark rule would reduce oil refinery pollutants that cause daily harm to the health of residents and local communities living near Richmond, Calif. and Martinez, Calif. oil refinery facilities.

Chevron in Richmond and PBF (formerly Shell) in Martinez are the [largest single](#) industrial emitters of dangerous [particulate matter](#) (PM) in the Bay Area. [Rule 6-5](#) sets a strict standard to reduce toxic PM emitted by the refinery’s fluid catalytic cracking units or “cat crackers”, a core component of the gasoline-refining process, by 70%. The sensible standard [recommended](#) by the Air District’s Advisory Council, would require pollution control technology already used at major refineries throughout the United States, including at Valero in Benicia, Calif.

“A million people in the Bay Area who live near the Chevron and PBF refineries are impacted by life-threatening particulate matter (PM) spewing from these two refineries, and people of color are disproportionately exposed.”

- Richard Gray, Leading 350 Bay Area Volunteer
Focused on regulations at the Air District for seven years
Contact for additional quotes and questions
t: 415-342-6057
e: richard@350bayarea.org

Particulate matter is severely dangerous to human health and is estimated to [kill up to 3,000 Bay Area](#) residents every year. These very small particles can embed deep into lungs and

cause long-term health effects. In Richmond, PM pollution is responsible for some of the highest rates of [childhood asthma](#) in the state.

“To be clear: No level of particulate matter is acceptable for humans to breathe and local authorities must act to protect the health of Bay Area residents. This deadly pollution is a clear environmental injustice for the disproportionately Black and Brown communities who live near these refineries and breathe their toxic emissions. The Air District Board must pass this sensible standard to ensure the health and safety of Bay Area residents now and for generations to come,” said Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area Senior Policy Analyst.

The Air District Board of Directors [meeting](#) will be at 9:30 AM PT on June 2. This is the [link to join](#). See the [meeting agenda](#) here, and the meeting link is just below the list of meetings in case it changes.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jed Holtzman, Senior Policy Analyst
350 Bay Area
t: (415) 828-3854
e: jed@350bayarea.org

Laura Neish, Executive Director
350 Bay Area
t: 510-473-5490
e: info@350bayarea.org