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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
DAVID TWA

June 10, 2013

Brian Bateman  
Health and Science Officer  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Reference: BAAQMD Regulation 12, Rule 15: Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking

Contra Costa Health Services' (CCHS) mission is "to care for and improve the health of all people in Contra Costa County with special attention to those who are most vulnerable to health problems." The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's mission is "to protect and improve public health, air quality, and the global climate."

I believe the proposed regulation *is a step forward* in achieving those goals. Notably, the regulation seeks to assure that refinery emissions do not increase in the future, noting that the use of lower quality crude oils may cause some increases in emissions. CCHSD supports limiting refinery emissions increases. Any increases will have additional impacts on public health, notably in areas surrounding the refineries.

The new regulation also proposed additional air monitoring, including in the communities surrounding the refinery. The information gained by the additional monitoring will be very useful in measuring public exposures to air pollutants emitted routinely and as a result of incidents. The additional real-time monitoring will provide more information to assist in protecting the public during an incident.

Contra Costa County is home to four major refineries in the bay area, and thus our communities are significantly impacted by this regulation. CCHSD strongly supports the intent of the proposed new regulation, and is committed to working with interested parties in its development.

Sincerely,

William B. Walker, M.D.

cc: Supervisor John Gioia  
Supervisor Mary Piepho  
Wendel Brunner, M.D., Contra Costa Health Services, Public Health  
Randall L. Sawyer, Contra Costa Health Services, Hazardous Materials Programs



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WILLIAM B. WALKER, M.D.

DIRECTOR & HEALTH OFFICER

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