



Workshop Notice and Request for Comments

August 19, 2026

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER / APCO
SUBJECT: **Workshop Notice and Request for Comments – Concept Paper for Amendments to Regulation 12, Rule 11: Flare Monitoring at Refineries and Rule 12: Flares at Refineries**

The Bay Area Air District (Air District) is issuing a Workshop Notice and Request for Comments on a concept paper that explores regulatory concepts for potential amendments to Regulation 12, Rule 11: Flare Monitoring at Refineries (Rule 12-11) and Rule 12: Flares at Refineries (Rule 12-12).

BACKGROUND

Flares are devices used to control and safely burn excess gases from various industrial processes. While flaring reduces the potential impacts of uncombusted releases by oxidizing hydrocarbons primarily to carbon dioxide and water, flare operation can also generate byproducts and other impacts, including emissions, noise, and large visible flames.

Rule 12-11 requires monitoring, recordkeeping, and measurement of the composition and volume of gases flared at refineries, and Rule 12-12 established requirements to reduce emissions at refineries by decreasing flaring frequency, magnitude, and duration. The Air District has made commitments to explore ways to minimize flaring in the Air District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and in the Assembly Bill 617 Richmond–North Richmond–San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), Path to Clean Air. Potential strategies in the plans include evaluating rule stringency and improving monitoring, reporting, and notification requirements related to flares.

CONCEPT PAPER

The concept paper presents regulatory concepts intended to reduce refinery flaring emissions and frequency, with an emphasis on minimizing preventable flaring and achieving meaningful emissions reductions. It also presents concepts to strengthen Flare Minimization Plans, monitoring, and reporting, which are anticipated to improve transparency, accessibility, efficiency, and enforceability.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Air District will host two hybrid public workshops during the public comment period to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about, discuss, and comment on the concept paper for amendments to Rules 12-11 and 12-12. Both workshops will provide

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the same information and opportunity for public input. The workshops will be conducted as follows:

- **Martinez Public Workshop:**
 - **Date/Time:** September 16, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
 - Locations:
 - **In-person:**
Martinez Event Center
524 Main Street
Martinez, CA 94553
 - **Virtual:** via webcast
 - [Please register for the workshop here.](#)
- **Richmond Public Workshop:**
 - **Date/Time:** September 24, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
 - Locations:
 - **In-person:**
Richmond Convention Center
403 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804
 - **Virtual:** via webcast
 - [Please register for the workshop here.](#)

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

The concept paper can be found on the Air District's [Refinery Flares Rule Amendments webpage](#). The Air District invites public feedback on these concepts and will consider all input received during the comment period toward further development of potential amendments to Rules 12-11 and 12-12.

Comments on concept paper for the amendments to Rules 12-11 and 12-12 are requested by **October 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM**. Written comments will be accepted through the Air District's [public comment tool](#).