

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

May 16, 2017

The Honorable Liz Kniss, Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Rule 12-16 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Kniss and Members of the Board of Directors,

On behalf of the City of Albany, the Albany City Council voted at its meeting of May 15, 2017 to express support for Rule 12-16.

We are deeply concerned about emissions from the five refineries in our region. Our city is situated near the Chevron refinery in Richmond, and our population includes many children and seniors, who are especially vulnerable to environmental contaminants.

Further, we share the environmental justice concerns of communities located even closer to refineries. Those communities, whose populations include large numbers of low-income families and people of color, bear a disproportionate share of the direct impacts of such emissions. The recent flaring at the Valero refinery in Benicia, and the evacuations that it prompted, only deepened our concerns.

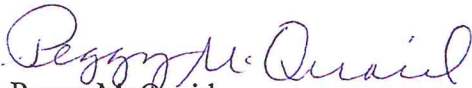
For the above reasons, the Albany City Council supports a maximally protective regulatory approach to safeguarding public health and reducing the emissions of refineries in our area. We hope our region will not be subject to the consequences of processing dirtier crude slates, nor to other emissions increases.

We join with the Sierra Club and allied organizations in urging the adoption of Rule 12-16, the Community Worker Proposal, because we believe it can advance these objective, and can be instituted quickly and without an impact on current refinery operations, employees, or earnings. We urge that other approaches, including but not limited to that of Rules 11-18 and 13-1, be considered as complementary measures to that of Rule 12-16 and that the Board strive to integrate the most effective of the proposed measures for advancing all regulatory objectives, including health and safety as well as environmental protection.

We understand that your staff is concerned that Rule 12-16 may exceed the authority of the District. We express no opinion on that legal risk, but encourage you in formulating your approach to be mindful of the importance to the community of striving for the best achievable safeguards of human health, and the greatest achievable contribution to the effort to slow climate change.

Your service, and the dedication of your professional staff, are admired and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy McQuaid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Peggy McQuaid

Mayor, City of Albany