

Plan could cut Bay Area oil refinery emissions by 20 percent

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Bay Area regulators are studying plans that could eventually cut oil refinery emissions by as much as 20 percent.

Board members of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District voted unanimously Wednesday to move forward with plans to cap and then reduce emissions, according to [a story in the San Francisco Chronicle](#).

One proposed rule would require the region's five oil refineries to cap emissions of toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gases based on current levels as well as divulge the grades of crude oil they use.

The 22-member board also directed staff to come up with proposals to reduce emissions by as much as 20 percent. That plan is scheduled to return to the board in December.

“Our goal is to have the cleanest refineries in the nation, here in the Bay Area,” said [John Gioia](#), a board member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. “My belief is that through best available technologies, emissions can continue to decline over time.”

Environmental groups praised the proposals while refinery representatives said they're in favor of emission reduction, but not restricting operations.

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“We’re not opposed to emission reductions,” said [Guy Bjerke](#), the Western States Petroleum Association’s Bay Area manager. “What we’re opposed to is anything that undercuts the operational flexibility of the refineries and impairs the permits these facilities already hold.”

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