

BAAQMD is the Bay Area Air Quality Management District which is tasked with regulating air pollution in the nine bay area counties. Board members are locally all elected officials. Air districts monitor stationary sources such as refineries and other facilities.

At the refineries like Chevron and Shell/PBF, Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units (FCCUs or Cat Crackers) are used to break down heavy crude oil into useable fuels. This process releases Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5, or particles smaller than 2.5 microns). PM 2.5 can settle into lungs causing respiratory illness, asthma, cardiac illness, and has been linked to COVID-19 mortality.

PM 2.5 is the leading cause of death from air pollution in the Bay Area. The communities especially impacted by this are typically communities of color and otherwise marginalized communities living at the frontlines of the refineries. This is an environmental justice issue that's being put forward by EJ groups.

BAAQMD currently has two options to reduce emissions from Cat Crackers. One would only reduce emissions from Cat Crackers by 40% whereas the other would reduce by nearly 75%. The stricter regulation would call for wet gas scrubbing or wet scrubbing which is used for a majority of Cat Crackers across the country. This is an unprecedented and critical opportunity to support public health and fight for environmental justice. The District must pass the strongest version of Rule 6-5.

#### Timeline:

Rule 6-5 being reviewed at Stationary Source Committee on March 15th and will come up to a board vote in April probably.

#### Action:

Send emails to the members of the Stationary Source Committee Board Members asking them to pass the strongest version of Rule 6-5.

#### Talking Points:

- The more stringent rule for Fluidized Catalytic Cracker Units would advance environmental justice since people of color are disproportionately affected by Particulate Matter 2.5 emissions.
- Wet gas scrubbing would actually create jobs! Valero's project added 200 construction workers.
- Wet gas scrubbers are already used for a majority of FCCUs across the country!
- We must hold the refineries accountable to their impacts on neighboring communities who often experience the brunt of the impacts and are more likely to be Black and Latinx communities.
- Now that we're in a respiratory pandemic, it's more important than ever to protect public health and reduce PM 2.5 emissions which are connected to COVID-19 mortality.

#### Letter Writing Strategies:

- Introduce yourself: State who you are and who you represent (if you do)
- Be firm and clear: state your demand directly!
- Make it personal: the best messages are the ones that tie in a personal reason why this matters; even if you don't have a direct connection, it's still helpful to give your notes their own spin so that 1) they realize it's not just an automated message, 2) it doesn't get caught in spam filters
- Be respectful: it's good to use strong language, but it's best to save incendiary language for real opponents; also makes sure that your message is actually heard
- In emails: Use clear subjects e.g. "Support Rule 6-5 for Environmental Justice"
- You can keep it short!: You should definitely give reasons about why you support something, but you don't need to say a whole lot! Keeping it concise can help you come across clearly and quickly!
- You can use the same letter to each committee member! But it's best to **send emails separately** rather than CC'ing or BCC'ing everyone so you can a) personalize the greetings, b) avoid spam filters

Template:

Subject: Support the strongest version of Rule 6-5 to reduce emissions from FCCUs

Dear \_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_ and I'm a member of the Sierra Club, SF Bay Chapter. Please support the strongest version of Rule 6-5 by calling for wet gas scrubbers to be used for Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units. FCCUs release dangerous Particulate Matter 2.5 which can cause respiratory illness, cardiac illness, and more. The PM2.5 emissions from refineries like Chevron and Shell/PBF disproportionately impact communities of color, who already face the worst experiences of air pollution. Supporting wet gas scrubbers supports environmental justice.

I ask that you support the more stringent version of Rule 6-5 on FCCUs.

Sincerely,  
NAME

Recipients: [BAAQMD Stationary Source Committee](#)

- Councilmember John J. Bauters [jbauters@emeryville.org](mailto:jbauters@emeryville.org)
- Supervisor Karen Mitchoff [supervisormitchoff@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:supervisormitchoff@bos.cccounty.us)
- Supervisor David J. Canepa [dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)
- Supervisor John Gioia [john\\_gioia@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:john_gioia@bos.cccounty.us).
- Supervisor Carole Groom [cgroom@smcgov.org](mailto:cgroom@smcgov.org)
- Tyrone Jue [tyrone.jue@sfgov.org](mailto:tyrone.jue@sfgov.org)
- Supervisor Nate Miley [bosdist4@acgov.org](mailto:bosdist4@acgov.org)
- Vice Mayor Mark Ross [mross@cityofmartinez.org](mailto:mross@cityofmartinez.org)

- Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht [brad.wagenknecht@countyofnapa.org](mailto:brad.wagenknecht@countyofnapa.org)

Resources:

- [http://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CBE\\_Rule\\_6\\_5\\_Detailed.pdf](http://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CBE_Rule_6_5_Detailed.pdf)
- [http://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CBE\\_Rule\\_6\\_5\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.cbecal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CBE_Rule_6_5_Overview.pdf)
- <https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/community-meetings-on-refinery-regulations/>
- <http://www.sunflower-alliance.org/sign-a-petition-for-the-strongest-refinery-pollution-rule-testify-december-17/>