

Below are some talking points that can be used in your comments. No single persons 2-minute speaking limit can cover all these points. The most effective talks start from personal experience and impacts of refinery emissions on your health and life. Include the points mentioned here as fits your needs. There are some additional talking points at the end of this document that respond to refinery and staff arguments that numerical caps violate refinery rights to increase local emissions by increasing output from historical levels to maximum permit levels.

We are coming to you today concerning a critical threat to the health and safety of our many Bay Area communities. You are very well aware we are home to FIVE major oil refineries, making us the second largest refinery center on the west coast.

These refineries are the largest industrial sources of air pollution in the Bay area. They are a major contribution to the higher asthma levels and many other negative health impacts in our communities. The future is on a path to even more serious health and safety risks. Refineries are already invested in or planning infrastructure additions to enable them to refine even dirtier, more toxic and higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting crude oils, such as Canadian tar sands. Increased transport of tar sands to Bay Area refineries will also greatly increase health and safety risks to communities along rail-transport lines coming into the Bay Area.

As the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) you are responsible for insuring healthy air, improving public health and protecting the climate. Yet today you require no overall refinery-wide limits on emission of toxics, particles or greenhouse gases from these refineries.

At the June 1st Stationary Source Committee meeting, BAAQMD staff presented four options for limits on refinery emissions in Rule 12 – 16. Three options prepared and endorsed by the staff offer potentials for future emission reductions, but will take at least a year or more to be implemented and will allow the tar sands transition to proceed unchecked during that time.

The fourth option, the Community-Worker proposal, is supported by community groups including Communities for a Better Environment, Asian-Pacific Environmental Network, the California Nurses Association, 350 Bay Area and Sunflower Alliance that have been campaigning for a fixed and enforceable limit on refinery emissions to stop this transition to tar sands and protect community health and our climate.

We are asking you today, to support the Community-Worker proposal which includes refinery-wide emission caps on toxics, fine particles and greenhouse gases into Rule 12-16. We need you to direct staff to include and prioritize this option in Rule 12-16 We support all the options for future emissions reductions proposed by the BAAQMD staff. But even the staff admits the Community-Worker proposal is the only path that can be effectively implemented NOW to prevent future increased emissions.

This emission cap is based on historical emissions by the refineries and will **not** force refineries to reduce throughput. It will stop them from moving towards dirtier crude oils in their refining.

Proposals such as ours are often attacked by the fossil fuel industry as a threat to workers and their jobs. Nothing is further from the truth. This proposal will not result in any job loss. In fact, United Steelworkers Local 5 representing many refinery workers in the Bay Area, is in support of this proposal.

To win this essential regulation in support of our health and safety we need your support today. Please adopt the fixed numerical emissions cap and help put the Bay Area on a path to cleaner air, worker and community safety and a protected climate. Thank you for your support.

Additional Points That Can Be Used

“Stop the Gas Station of the Pacific”

Concerns are raised that our emissions cap proposal restricts the ability of the refineries to increase current production levels to their currently permitted maximum throughputs of crude oil. However, from 2007–2014 refinery product demand in California decreased, while at the same time refinery production stayed steady or increased slightly, as refiners exported more product overseas. Bay Area refineries accounted for much of these exports. Foreign exports of finished refined products from the West Coast nearly doubled, growing by nearly 200,000 barrels/day, from 2007 to 2014. These trends will continue. Increases in refinery throughput will be driven by export demand and not local consumption needs.

Petroleum coke exports remained the largest share of these exports by volume and also increased from 2007–2014. Pet coke is a byproduct of refining low-quality crude that is exported in part because of California air quality controls on this dirty-burning fuel. Processing tar sands will result in major increases in petcoke production.

California is not yet the Pacific rim’s gas station, and must not allowed to become so. To reach state goals set for greenhouse gas reductions, we must eventually electrify our transportation systems, further reducing local demand for refinery products. **Allowing** oil refining for export to worsen air pollution from refineries here and from tailpipes everywhere **allows** oil to compete unfairly with this urgently needed solution.