



Enforcement News

Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery agrees to \$285,000 Settlement for Discharge Violation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2020

Contact: Thomas Mumley

Thomas.Mumley@waterboards.ca.gov

OAKLAND - The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board fined the Phillips 66 Co. \$285,000 for discharging more than 5 million gallons of partially treated wastewater from its San Francisco Refinery to San Pablo Bay.

The fine stems from a Feb. 14, 2019, discharge that exceeded the suspended solids load allowed by Phillips 66 Co.'s discharge permit. Suspended solids from petroleum refineries may contain toxic byproducts of refinery operations that can harm aquatic life. No harm was observed in San Pablo Bay from the discharge event.

[The settlement](#) requires the refinery to pay \$142,500 to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account and \$142,500 on a supplemental environmental project to study how sediment moves through San Francisco Bay.

"This enforcement action deters the refinery from committing similar violations and sends the message that all petroleum refineries in the region need to manage their treatment systems properly and prepare for the inevitable storms we see from time to time," said Thomas Mumley, assistant executive officer for the San Francisco Bay Water Board.

The violation might have been avoided had the refinery restored an onsite storage tank to service in a timely manner. Instead, when a series of big consecutive storms increased flows through the treatment process, the refinery could not store enough wastewater for later treatment and had to bypass the part of its treatment system that filters out suspended solids. The refinery returned the storage tank to service in January 2020.

The [San Francisco Bay Water Board](#) is a state agency that regulates wastewater treatment and discharge facilities, such as those at petroleum refineries. The mission of the San Francisco Bay Water Board is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

