



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release  
September 5, 2003**

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## **Air District Affirms Commitment to New Source Review**

San Francisco, CA. The Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has adopted a resolution to reaffirm the agency's commitment to protect the public's health by maintaining strict air quality regulations.

The resolution follows the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) change in federal New Source Review regulations that could have a serious impact on the Air District's ability to reduce emissions from large sources of air pollution.

"Since 1979, this agency has operated under New Source Review rules that are among the toughest in the nation," stated Air District CEO William C. Norton. "We will continue to work with other air districts in the state and with the US EPA to demonstrate the need for flexibility in incorporating measures required by the US EPA. We are committed to maintaining New Source Review programs that are at least as protective of public health and as effective at reducing emissions as current programs," Norton added.

The US EPA has exempted large sources of air pollution from installing clean air controls when modernizing their facilities under the new rules. New Source Review as implemented in the Bay Area requires that when a facility expands or installs new equipment, the source must also apply updated air pollution control equipment to minimize emissions. Over the years, the Air District's new source review program has been a key element in improving air quality and public health throughout the Bay Area.

The foundation of the Air District's clean air program is to control pollution at the source by requiring permits to construct and permits to operate equipment that produces certain emissions. "By writing emission limits into the permit we are able to reduce emissions, improve air quality and subsequently protect the health of Bay Area residents," Norton said. "New Source Review is a vital part of our air quality control program," Norton concluded.

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