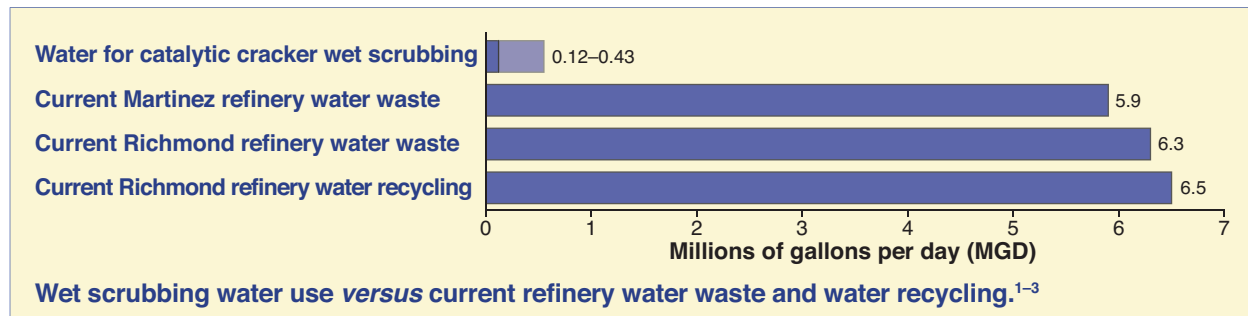


Oil refiners say air pollution control wastes too much water. Their refineries waste up to 50 times more. And can recycle.



Wet scrubbing, an air pollution control measure that is used at other refineries, could cut air emissions from the largest and most dangerous particulate matter air pollution sources at the Chevron Richmond refinery and the PBF Martinez refinery. The oil companies are fighting it. Among other things, they say it will waste too much water. That argument ignores both their larger water waste problem and their ability to recycle more water than wet scrubbing uses.

Wet scrubbing of the refiners’ catalytic cracking exhaust, the cleanup in question, could use water at a rate of 0.12 to 0.43 million gallons per day (MGD), air quality officials estimate.¹ Chevron’s Richmond refinery discharges process waste water to the San Francisco Bay at an average rate of 6.3 MGD, water quality officials estimate.² This is after it recycles 6.5 MGD used in its boilers and cooling towers.² The PBF (formerly Shell) Martinez refinery discharges process waste water to the Bay at an average rate of 5.9 MGD, the water officials estimate.³

Based on these official estimates, the proposed air cleanup measure would be a minor use of water in refineries that refiners could choose to—or be required to—recycle:

- Without any additional recycling, wet scrubbing would represent only two percent to seven percent of daily water waste at these refineries.
- Full recycling of the water volume that wet scrubbing could use would represent only two to seven percent of the water volume that one refiner already recycles.

A virtual public hearing and vote on this oil refinery cleanup measure, proposed Bay Area Air Quality Management District Rule 6–5, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on July 21, 2021. For details: [www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rules/reg-6-rule-5-particulate-emissions-from-refinery-fluidized-catalytic-cracking-units?rule_version=2021 Amendment](http://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rules/reg-6-rule-5-particulate-emissions-from-refinery-fluidized-catalytic-cracking-units?rule_version=2021%20Amendment)

July 2021

¹ Bay Area Air Quality Management District Final Staff Report—Proposed Regulation 6, Rule 5. *See* link above.

² San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R2-2016-0047. *See* Attachment F. www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2016/R2-2016-0047.pdf

³ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R2-2017-0039. *See* Attachment F. www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2017/R2-2017-0039.pdf