

# Air Monitoring Plan for the Valero Refinery in Benicia, California

Prepared for  
Valero Refining Company - CA  
Benicia Refinery  
Benicia, CA

Updated: February 2, 2023  
Original: September 7, 2017





# Air Monitoring Plan for the Valero Refinery in Benicia, California

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Air Monitoring Plan, Rev 6  
STI-922002-6601

Updated: February 2, 2023<sup>1</sup>  
Original: September 7, 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Updated per District requests for additional hydrogen sulfide monitoring along refinery fenceline paths and to implement this enhanced monitoring by January 1, 2023.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

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The Valero Refining Company (Valero) conducts air quality monitoring at its Benicia, California, refinery in response to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Regulation 12, Rule 15 (Rule 12-15).<sup>2</sup> The monitoring follows a facility-specific air monitoring plan consistent with the BAAQMD's Air Monitoring Guidelines for Petroleum Refineries.<sup>3</sup> Rule 12-15 requires routine monitoring near the fencelines of all San Francisco Bay Area refineries for specific air compounds, with data reported to the public. The rule also requires that refineries submit air monitoring plans to the BAAQMD for approval. This Monitoring Plan was approved on June 8, 2018, with conditions to: (1) update the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP, located in [Appendix A](#)) and (2) select hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) monitoring technology. On October 6, 2021, BAAQMD provided updated requirements for refineries to (1) conduct additional H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring along refinery fenceline paths, and (2) implement this enhanced monitoring by January 1, 2023. On December 8, 2022, Valero implemented H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring. BAAQMD issued updated specifications on December 22, 2022. Valero's response to the updated specifications is located in Appendix E.

The remainder of this section gives an overview of the Monitoring Plan and outlines the steps that will be taken to maintain approval of this Monitoring Plan.

## 1.2 Plan Summary

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This section provides an overview of the monitoring plan. Subsequent sections provide additional plan details and associated justifications for the monitoring program design.

Rule 12-15 requires fenceline monitoring of multiple compounds using "open-path technology capable of measuring in the parts-per-billion range regardless of path length" or an alternative measurement technology.<sup>2</sup> The required compounds to be measured include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX) and H<sub>2</sub>S. In addition, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), alkanes, 1,3-butadiene, other organics, and ammonia should be considered for measurements.

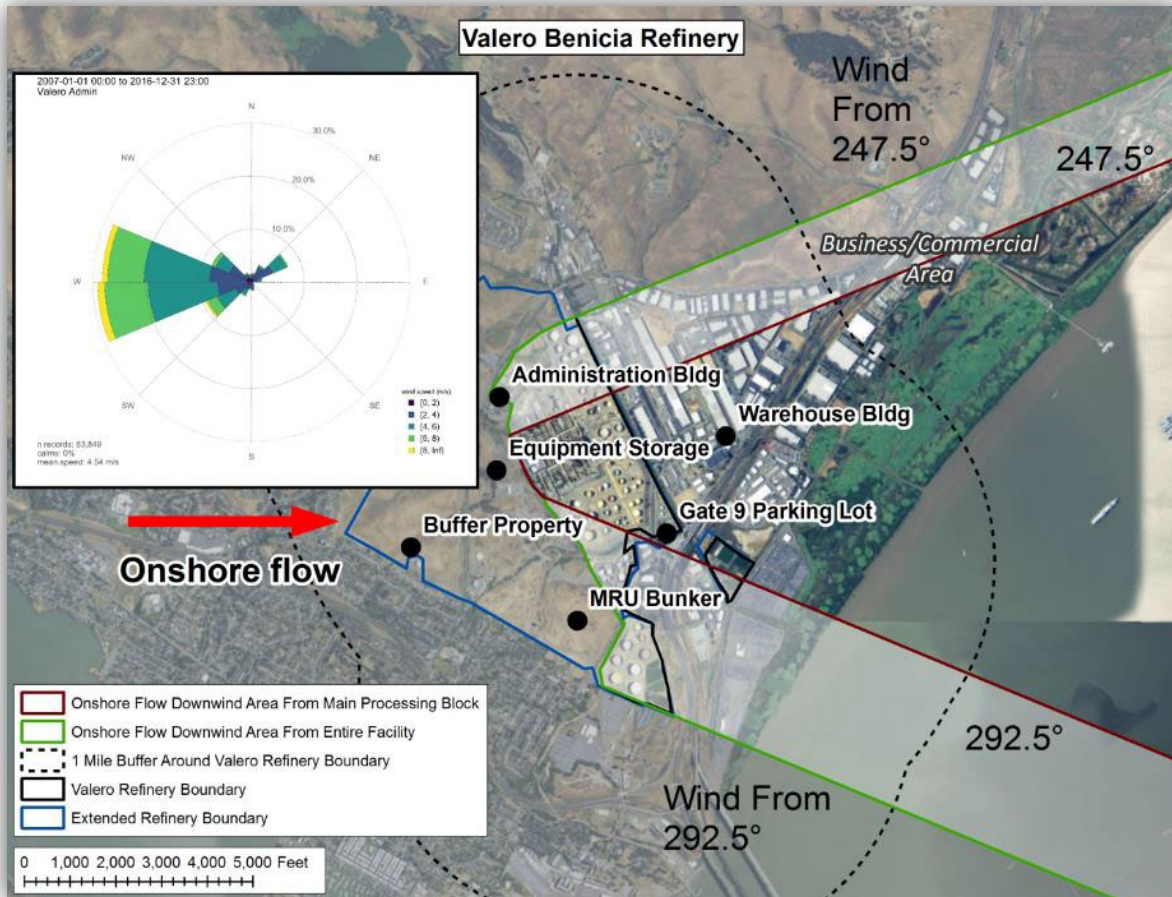
For the Valero fenceline monitoring program, Valero uses open-path instruments to measure the required compounds (BTEX and H<sub>2</sub>S) along three paths. The three measurement paths, composed of two segments each, are implemented to cover Valero's fencelines in consideration of nearby local

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<sup>2</sup> Petroleum Refining Emission Tracking (Rule 12-15; approved by the BAAQMD on April 20, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Bay Area Air Quality Management BAAQMD (2016) Air monitoring guidelines for petroleum refineries. April. Available at [baaqmd.gov/~media/files/planning-and-research/public-hearings/2016/9-14-and-12-15/042016-hearing/1215-amg-041416-pdf.pdf?la=en](http://baaqmd.gov/~media/files/planning-and-research/public-hearings/2016/9-14-and-12-15/042016-hearing/1215-amg-041416-pdf.pdf?la=en).

receptors (e.g., residences and businesses), dominant winds that blow from west to the east, and infrequent winds that blow from the northeast to the southwest to portions of populated areas in Benicia. As shown in Figure 1, the business park east of Valero is the only populated area influenced by the dominant winds; winds blow from other directions less than 10% of the time for 22.5-degree wind direction segments.



**Figure 1.** Areas downwind of the Valero Benicia Refinery property boundaries for wind directions that occur more than 10% of the time on an annual basis. The only populated area impacted by the dominant wind direction is the business park to the east of the Valero refinery.

Along all paths, BTEX and SO<sub>2</sub> are measured by monostatic Ultraviolet-Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (UV-DOAS) with a xenon light source. For open-path measurements, “monostatic” refers to the configuration where the light source and detector are at the same location, and the light from the source is reflected straight back at the detector using a special mirror called a retroreflector. H<sub>2</sub>S is measured by monostatic Tunable Diode Laser Absorption Spectroscopy (TDLAS) instrument. These open-path instruments transmit light across a given path and detect the amount of energy absorption at a particular wavelength of light to determine the average concentration of a particular

pollutant along the path. The three primary monitoring paths, composed of six total segments, are shown in Figure 2. GPS coordinates, elevations, and instrument inventory at each open-path sampling site are shown in Table 1.

In addition, as requested by the BAAQMD, monitoring between Paths 2 and 3 occurs at sample locations 10, 11, and 12 (see Figure 2). The sorbent tubes at these point locations will be replaced and analyzed for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes approximately every 14 days in accordance with the 40 CFR Subpart CC Fenceline Monitoring program. Please note, all additional discussions in this document, unless otherwise noted, refer to the open-path monitoring and not the monitoring with sorbent tubes.



Figure 2. Open-path monitoring network for Valero’s Benicia Refinery. Each primary path is numbered and contains segments that are labeled with the path number and a prime (') or double prime (") symbol. Yellow "+" symbols indicate the location of point monitoring by sorbent tubes. Main wind flow directions are also shown.

**Table 1.** GPS coordinates, elevations, and instrument inventory at each open-path sampling site.

Site	Coordinates	Elevation (ft)	Equipment
1"	38.069404, - 122.153003	402	1 UV-DOAS 1 TDL Retroreflector
1	38.065527, - 122.150574	344	2 UV-DOAS Analyzers 2 TDL Analyzers
1'	38.063530, - 122.147851	253	1 UV-DOAS 1 TDL Retroreflector
2"	38.061956, - 122.144872	215	1 UV-DOAS 1 TDL Retroreflector
2	38.059251, - 122.138816	193	2 UV-DOAS Analyzers 2 TDL Analyzers
2'	38.056332, - 122.133499	172	1 UV-DOAS 1 TDL Retroreflector
3"	38.069889, - 122.132245	12	1 UV-DOAS Analyzer 1 TDL Analyzer
3	38.074329, - 122.134956	28	2 UV-DOAS Retroreflectors 2 TDL Retroreflectors
3'	38.079025, - 122.137809	28	1 UV-DOAS Analyzer 1 TDL Analyzer

Paths 1 and 2 cover the southwest fenceline to assess potential transport toward the city of Benicia. This transport direction is infrequent and only occurs on an occasional basis in the winter, when winds sometimes blow from the northeast toward the southwest. Over the course of a year, these northeast winds occur less than about 7% of the time. Because of terrain effects and the orientation of the Carquinez Strait, the northeasterly wind direction is well-defined and has little directional variability; therefore, the downwind areas that could be affected under these wind conditions are very narrow.

Path 3 covers the eastern fenceline to assess potential transport toward the business/commercial area east of the refinery. This transport direction is common in the spring, summer, and early fall, when winds often blow from the west toward the east. Monitoring between Path 2 and 3 is not needed, as there are no significantly populated areas downwind of this space between the monitors. In addition, a release that might travel between Path 2 and 3 would likely be seen on Path 2 or 3 monitors because of dispersion. Also, it is not feasible to add monitors between Paths 2 and 3 because of road, rail track, and terrain issues.

Instruments on Paths 1 and 2 are elevated about 5 ft above ground level (agl). Instruments on Path 3

may be elevated to about 15 to 20 feet agl so that vehicle traffic will not block the open-path sensor light. While instruments are located at the above elevations, the distance between the ground and the light beam along the path vary according to the terrain.

Open-path analyzers are located at sites 1, 2, 3', and 3". Sites 1 and 2 each have two UV-DOAS and two TDLAS analyzers. Each pair of analyzers at each site points roughly 180 degrees from each other. The remaining numbered sites (1', 1", 2', 2", and 3) have retro reflectors (i.e., mirrors). This setup provides maximum spatial coverage along the critical paths.

Visibility instruments are placed at sites 1 and 3' to measure visibility conditions at different locations and elevations. The visibility measurements are used as evidence of low visibility conditions that cause missing measurements from the open-path instruments. Two sites have been selected because visibility can vary spatially across the refinery. In addition, these locations were selected for ease of access.

All instruments are installed and operated following manufacturer specifications, including necessary bump tests, which challenge instruments with known gas concentrations to confirm accurate response.

Instruments are operated to meet a minimum of 75% completeness for the purpose of calculating hourly averages , and 90% completeness by annual quarter. Appropriate completeness criteria are calculated after removing time periods when atmospheric conditions prevented measurement.

Measurements are collected at a time resolution of 5-min. Data from the fenceline monitors are transmitted to an internet website where the near-real-time results can be viewed by the public. The website also provides a mechanism for public comment, which is monitored by a designated consultant. Data generated by the fenceline monitoring equipment undergoes review throughout the measurement and reporting process. Included in this process are automated QA/QC checks that occur before data are reported on the real-time website. Under normal circumstances, a 5-minute average measurement appears on the website within 10 minutes of the end of the measurement period. However, the data uploaded may be impacted by internet traffic. An automated system conducts the Quality Assurance checks before the data are reported to the website. The website also makes available a rolling 1-hour trend of the 5-minute data for each gas reported. Once QA/QC of the final data is completed (within 60 days after the end of each calendar quarter), the refinery will provide one-hour average concentration data in tabular format through a comma-separated value data file to the BAAQMD. The BAAQMD may make the one-hour average data available to the public through a BAAQMD website or through public records request. The refinery will make data available to BAAQMD upon request prior to the report submittal.

All data are retained by the facility for a period of five years, consistent with Regulation 12-15-302.

## 2. Monitoring Plan Design Considerations

This Monitoring Plan was developed in consideration of the following elements.

- Rule 12-15 and related guidance.
- Monitoring objectives, which were established in consideration of Rule 12-15 and related guidance.
- The findings of a scoping study, which involved assessments of (1) the geographic setting around Valero's Benicia Refinery, (2) the relevant meteorological conditions, and (3) air quality monitoring and dispersion modeling results.
- Technical and engineering feasibility related to available monitoring technologies and instrument siting.
- Data management and QA/QC requirements.

Details on each of these elements are provided in the following subsections.

### 2.1 Key Elements of Rule 12-15 and Guidance

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According to the BAAQMD's April 2016 guidelines, the main goals of fenceline monitoring are to:

- "Provide continuous air quality concentration information on a short enough time scale to address changes in fence-line concentrations of compounds associated with refinery operations."
- "Provide data of sufficient accuracy to identify when concentrations of compounds associated with refinery operations are elevated as compared to other monitoring locations throughout the Bay Area."
- "Potentially aid in identifying corrective actions that lowers emissions."

Key considerations provided in the Guidance Document for designing a monitoring plan to address BAAQMD goals is summarized below.

- Conduct "fenceline" measurements of BTEX and H<sub>2</sub>S. Consider measuring other compounds, including SO<sub>2</sub>, alkanes, 1,3-butadiene, other organics, and ammonia. The term "fenceline" in the guidance refers to a general boundary between refinery property and areas outside the refinery property, not necessarily to an actual fence.

- Conduct measurements in areas where emissions from the refinery could frequently impact populated areas. Specifically, this includes the following:
  - “Measurements must cover populated areas within one mile of the refinery fence-line likely to be affected when the annual mean wind direction lies in an arc within 22.5 degrees of a direct line from source to receptors 10% of the time, or greater, based on the most representative meteorological measurements for sources likely to emit the compounds listed above at the refinery.”
  - In addition, “Meteorological measurements should also be used and addressed in the Air Monitoring Plan to ensure proper siting of fence-line systems, looking at long-term measurements such as annual average wind rose, but also taking into account more seasonal and recurring short term meteorological events.”
- Provide measurements of the compounds at the ppb level or as technology allows.
- Conduct measurements using open-path instruments or an appropriate alternative.
- Provide rationale for the compounds to be measured and not measured.
- Provide rationale for the locations for the measurements.
- Provide rationale for the instruments to be used.
- Collect the measurements every 5 minutes.
- Process the data and display the data in near-real time to a public website.
- Meet data recovery and completeness criteria.
- Develop a QAPP for the measurement program and follow the QAPP.

## 2.2 Scoping Study

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### 2.2.1 Assessment of the Geographic Study Setting

Valero’s Benicia Refinery is located at 3400 East 2nd Street in the eastern part of the City of Benicia, Solano County, California (see [Figure 3](#)). The refinery is bounded by Suisun Bay and by the Carquinez Strait on the east and south sides of the property. Low coastal hills rise to elevations of 400 to 1,000 feet on the west and north sides of the refinery. Valero’s 800-acre property is largely undeveloped and provides a useful area for air monitoring. Valero’s Refinery operations occupy approximately 330 acres, including a 46-acre process block that lies between East 2nd Street and Park Road and a 50-acre crude oil tank farm that lies between Park Road and Interstate 680 (see [Figure 4](#)). The Shell Martinez and Tesoro Golden Eagle refineries are located to the south and southeast across the Carquinez Strait.



Figure 3. Geographic setting of the Valero Benicia Refinery.





**Figure 4.** Layout of the Valero Benicia Refinery (Source of information: Valero Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report, June 2008).

Residential areas are located to the southwest, west, and northwest of the facility and most are at least 1,500 feet from the refinery plant and storage tanks. Businesses are located east and northeast of the refinery, and the business/commercial area begins a short distance from the refinery property. Interstate 680 is adjacent to the eastern side of the refinery and Interstate 780 is located to the south; there are residences between Interstate 780 and the refinery. The nearby public-access areas—e.g., residences, businesses, and public roadways—represent air quality “receptors” that are nearest and at times downwind from Valero’s Benicia Refinery. The positions of these receptors received careful consideration during the design of this air quality monitoring plan.

## 2.2.2 Assessment of Valero Processes

Valero’s Benicia Refinery is a petroleum refinery producing fuel products, such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), gasoline, jet fuels, diesel fuels, and residual fuel oils through distillation of crude oil, including cracking, alkylation, and reforming. In light of Valero’s products, processes, and associated potential emissions, the following rationales in **Table 2** were used to determine which compounds need to be measured or not measured:

1. Benzene measurements are a good qualitative indicator for other Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) emissions<sup>4</sup>
2. The compound is not a HAP (this is not the sole reason for exclusion, but is provided for completeness)
3. Emissions are low compared to background concentrations
4. Already measured by existing ground level monitors (GLM)
5. Alerting systems already in place at the refinery
6. Not manufactured as a product of the refinery and not used in routine processing.

**Table 2.** Compounds and the rationale for their exclusion from the fenceline monitoring program.

Compound	Required by the BAAQMD	To Be Measured	Rationale for Exclusion
Benzene	Yes	Yes	N/A
Toluene	Yes	Yes	N/A
Ethylbenzene	Yes	Yes	N/A
Xylenes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Hydrogen sulfide	Yes	Yes	N/A
SO <sub>2</sub>	No, if justified	Yes	N/A
Alkanes	No, if justified	No	1 (for hexane) 2 (except for hexane) 5

<sup>4</sup> Background section of Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and New Source Performance Standards.

Compound	Required by the BAAQMD	To Be Measured	Rationale for Exclusion
1,3-Butadiene	No, if justified	No	6
Other organics	No, if justified	No	1
Ammonia	No, if justified	No	5, 6

**Exclusion of alkanes.** Valero does not include alkanes in its fenceline monitoring program. During normal operations, there is no potential for alkanes to be released at the fenceline without a corresponding benzene release, and as noted in Table 1 above, benzene is included in the fenceline monitoring program. Alkanes are used within the refinery process units; however, the Benicia refinery is unique in its design of integrated process units. This design, intended to maximize energy efficiency and minimize the storage of intermediate products, essentially causes the entire refinery to function as one integrated unit. This means that a release of alkanes from a process unit that *does not* emit BTEX compounds would coincide with a release from a process unit that *does* emit BTEX compounds. Therefore, the proposed fenceline BTEX monitoring would serve as the alert in the event of a release of alkanes used in the process units.

The only location where alkanes could potentially be released without a corresponding benzene release is at tank storage (liquefied petroleum gas [LPG] spheres, one pressurized tank, and two LPG loading racks). However, fenceline monitoring of these alkanes would not serve as a first alert of an alkane leak: any release from one of these sources would be a significant event with refinery alarms that would activate refinery emergency response procedures and evacuation of people downwind. The LPG storage area, including the loading racks, has open-path total hydrocarbon detectors that alarm in the Control House in the event of a release. The pressurized tank is equipped with pressure relief valves (PRVs). These existing open-path analyzers and PRVs serve as the first alert for an alkane release that would activate emergency response procedures; a fenceline monitor would not be used as a first alert of a release in this situation.

**Exclusion of 1,3-butadiene.** Valero does not include measurements of 1,3-butadiene in its fenceline monitoring program. This is because 1,3-butadiene is not manufactured as an intermediate product or end product of the refinery and is only present in trace quantities.

**Exclusion of other organics.** Valero does not include measurements of other organics in its fenceline monitoring program. Other organics, with the exception of alkanes, are coincident with BTEX; therefore, the BTEX measurements serve as an excellent surrogate for other organics. The exclusion of alkanes is discussed above.

**Exclusion of anhydrous ammonia.** Valero does not include measurements of anhydrous ammonia in its fence-line monitoring program because anhydrous ammonia is used in air pollution control devices and is not used in routine processing at the refinery. Anhydrous ammonia is present in only one location, in two 3.5' x 14' drums that have high temp/pressure/level alarms for detection of release at the source. There are also excess flow shutoff valves on the drum, fixed fire monitors around the perimeter, and bollards and elevated foundations to protect the drums.

### 2.2.3 Assessment of Local Meteorology

Valero's Benicia Refinery is positioned in a wind flow corridor between the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento Valley. Wind flow through the corridor is driven by seasonally variable regional temperature gradients and large-scale meteorological systems.

To characterize meteorological processes, measurements of wind, mixing height, and visibility were collected and assessed at several sites (see [Figure 5](#)). Items investigated included the monthly, annual, seasonal, and spatial patterns of winds; the low-level vertical structure of winds and how that structure might impact the transport of elevated sources versus surface sources; and the presence of fog and low clouds (as related to the ability of open-path sensors to obtain measurements). The primary data used in this analysis included:

- **Routine surface winds** – collected at the Valero's Administration building and an offsite warehouse in 2007–2016.
- **Special-study surface winds** – collected at MRU Bunker in 2015.
- **Special-study 1-minute visibility measurements** – collected using a Belfort visibility instrument at the facility's Equipment Storage site (ES) location from January 14 through July 9, 2015.

Surface wind data collected at the special-study Buffer Property site (BP) in winter 2015 were compared to data from the Administration site. It was determined that the wind data collected at BP were very similar to the data collected at the Administration site; thus, the BP data were not included in the detailed analysis summarized in this report. Also, the Administration meteorological site is appropriate for understanding movement of air from the refinery to Benicia because (1) it is located between the refinery and the community to the west and thus better represents transport directions to the community; (2) it is at an elevation that is more representative of winds that blow into the community; and (3) it is not influenced by nearby buildings.

General meteorological patterns were also discussed with experts in meteorological processes in the North Bay Area.

For this analysis, seasons were defined as follows: winter is December, January, February; spring is March, April, May; summer is June, July, August; and fall is September, October, November.



Figure 5. Meteorological monitoring locations.

## General Flow Patterns

Figure 6 illustrates the predominant wind flow patterns (1) winds blowing from the northwest and west to the east and southeast (onshore flow, most often occurring in spring, summer, and early fall); and (2) winds blowing from northeast to southwest (regional offshore flow, most often occurring in winter).



Figure 6. Typical wind flows around Valero’s Benicia Refinery.

## Wind Roses

Wind roses were created to determine the frequency of wind speed and direction for various time periods. To evaluate the actual winds against the wind direction requirement stated in the BAAQMD Guidance document, wind roses showing annual mean wind direction in 22.5-degree segments were created and reviewed. To evaluate seasonal and recurring short-term meteorological events, seasonal and monthly wind roses were created.

The petals of a wind rose show the direction from which the wind is blowing. The wind roses show that:

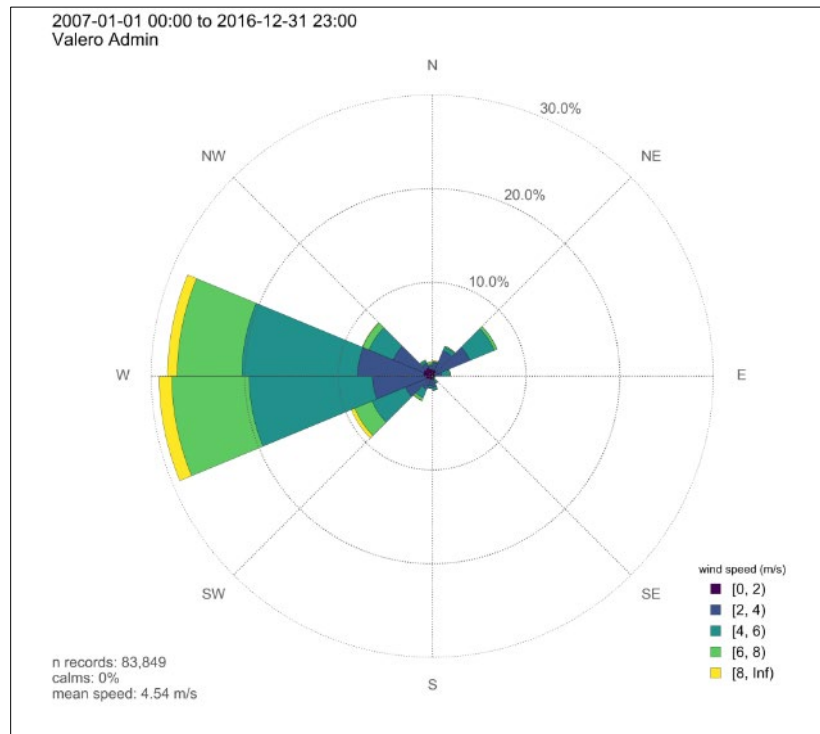
- **Onshore winds** – Winds blowing from northwest to southeast, west to east, and southwest to northeast are in excess of 10% per year (see Figure 7). Winds from these directions are most common in spring, summer, and early fall.
- **Offshore winds** – Winds blowing from the refinery toward the city of Benicia (i.e., winds blowing from northeast to southwest) are infrequent and occur on an occasional basis less than 7% of the time throughout the year (Figures 8 and 9). Although the northeasterly winds occur less than 10% of the time annually, they are included for consideration in this Monitoring Plan because portions of the city of Benicia are downwind of the refinery under these conditions and the winds may occur more than 10% of the time *during the winter season only*. Winds from other directions occur a negligible amount of the time.

To better illustrate the downwind areas impacted by the onshore and offshore winds, maps that highlight the areas downwind of the Valero Benicia Refinery property were created. For offshore winds, more precise modeling was performed because this wind direction is from the refinery toward

the residences of Benicia. Details on the modeling are discussed in Section 2.2.4. The downwind areas of influence for onshore flow and offshore flow are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 10, respectively. These analyses show that:

- During **dominant** onshore (southwest through northwest) winds, the main area downwind of the refinery is the business/commercial area just to the east.
- During **infrequent** offshore (northeasterly) winds, the main area downwind of the refinery is the city of Benicia, excluding west and northwest Benicia. The offshore wind direction is well defined and has little directional variability (because of terrain effects and the orientation of the Carquinez Strait). Therefore, the downwind areas that could be affected under these conditions are very narrow.

The results of the wind and modeling analyses indicate that air quality measurements are needed along the southwest fenceline (Paths 1 and 2) and eastern fenceline (Path 3) of the Valero Benicia Refinery (see Figure 2). Monitoring between Paths 2 and 3 is not feasible because of road, rail track, and terrain issues. However, monitoring between Paths 2 and 3 is not needed, as there are no significantly populated areas downwind of this space between the monitors. Monitoring north of Path 1 is not needed because it is outside of the area of influence.



**Figure 7.** Wind rose for Administration site showing near-surface wind directions for data collected from 2007 through 2016.

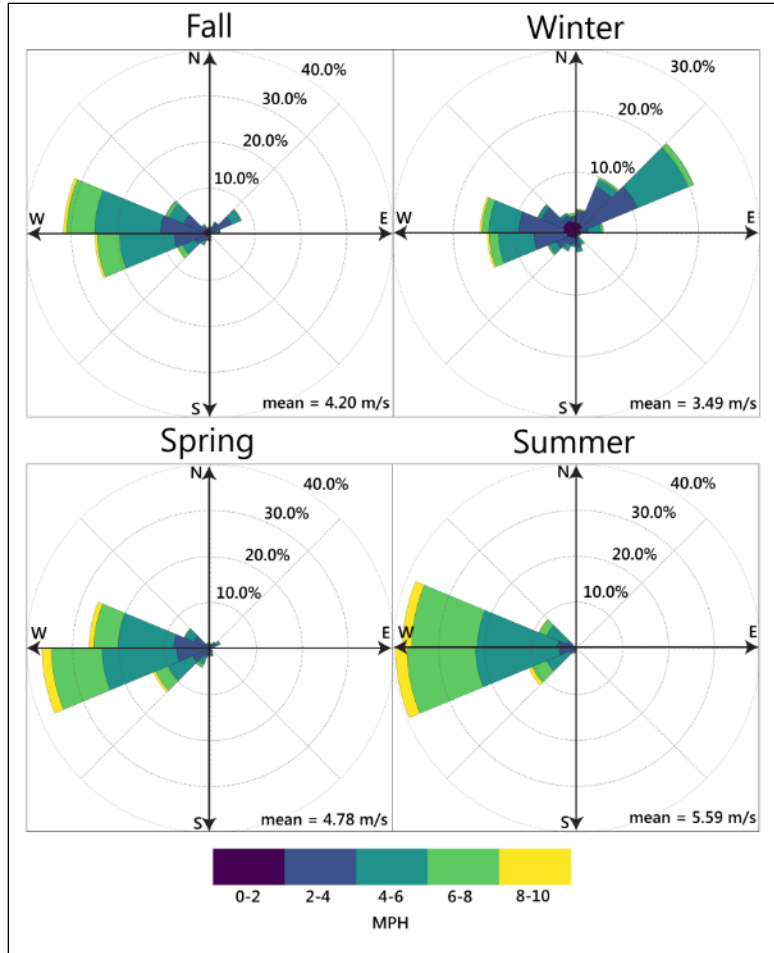


Figure 8. Wind roses at the Administration building (surface winds) by season for data collected from 2007 through 2016.



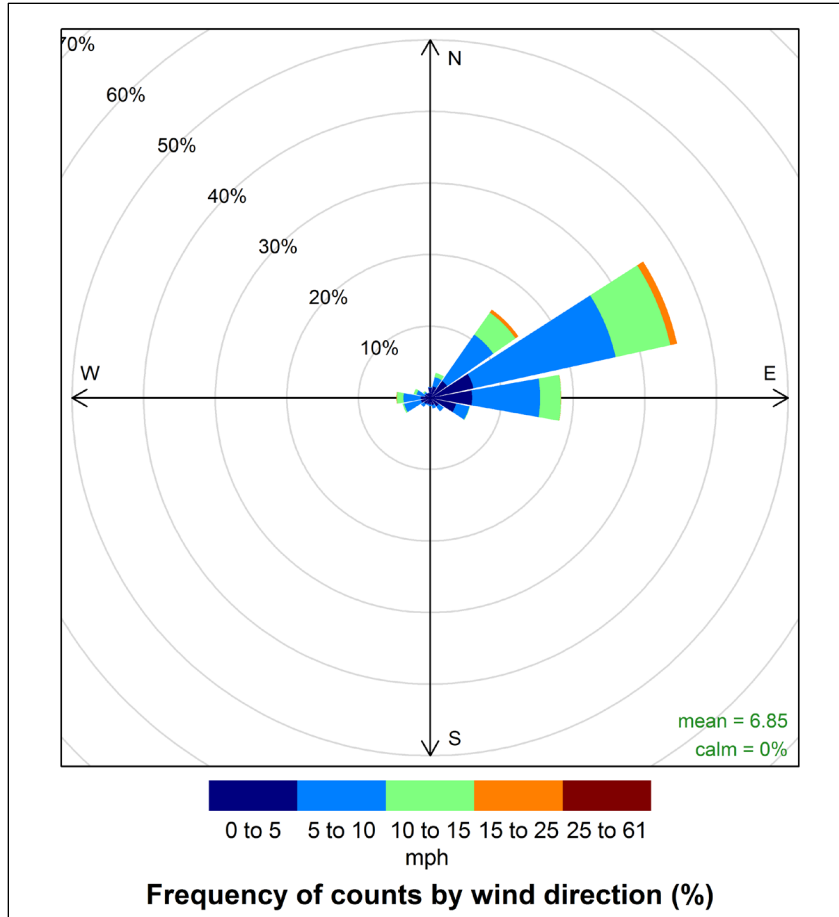


Figure 9. Wind roses at MRU Bunker for January 2015.

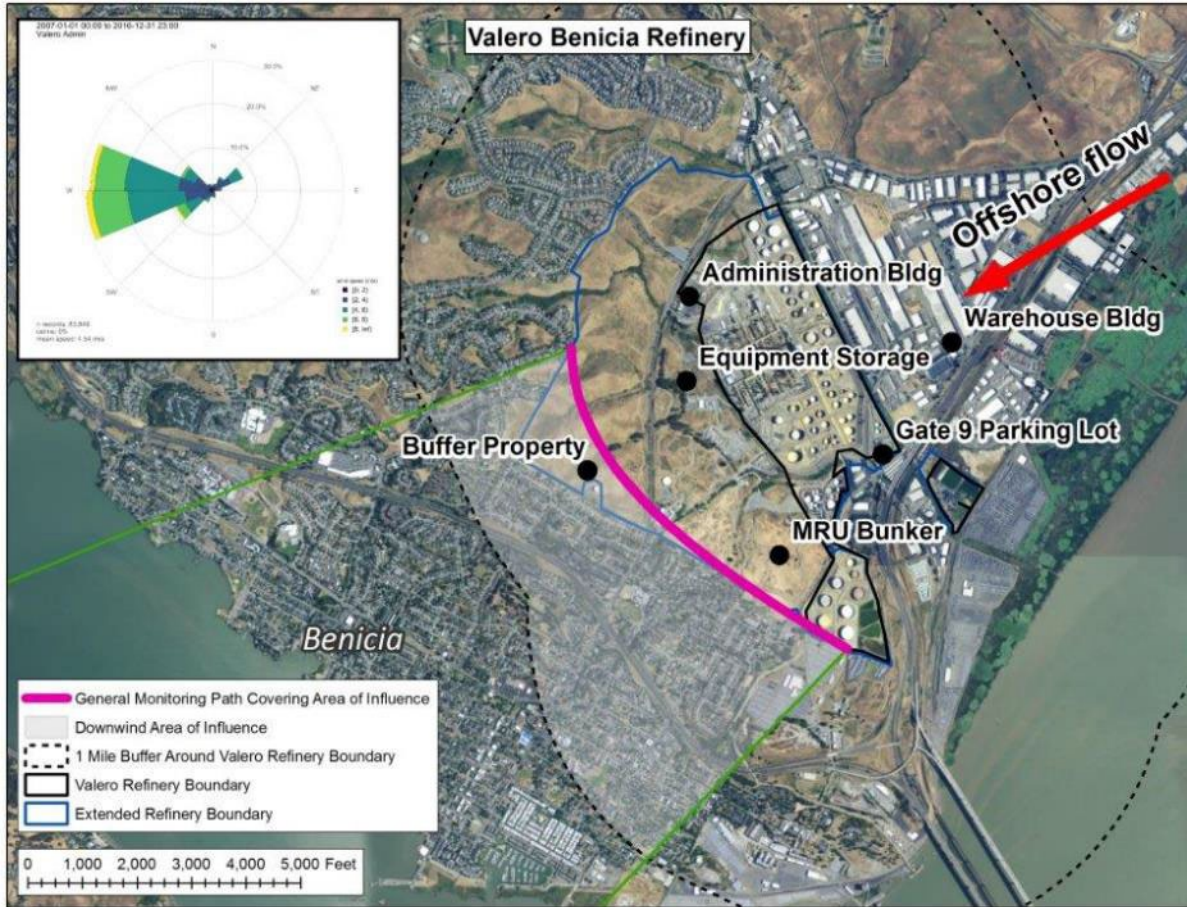


Figure 10. Areas downwind of the Valero Benicia Refinery property boundaries during offshore (northeast to southwest) winds.

## 2.2.4 Winter Offshore-Flow Dispersion Modeling

Because of terrain effects and the orientation of the Carquinez Strait, the northeasterly wind direction is well-defined and has little directional variability; therefore, the downwind areas that could be affected under these wind conditions are very narrow. To provide further evidence that monitoring Paths 1 and 2 upwind of Benicia during winter months are in the correct locations to capture the narrow area of the offshore flow, air pollutant dispersion modeling was performed using the American Meteorological Society/Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Model (AERMOD, Version 15181).<sup>5</sup> AERMOD is a steady-state Gaussian plume dispersion model. The advantage of dispersion modeling over wind rose analysis is that it combines winds, topography, atmospheric stability, emissions, and dispersion processes to estimate areas of peak concentrations across the entire downwind area. Importantly, dispersion modeling accounts for the time variability in

<sup>5</sup> [https://www3.epa.gov/scram001/dispersion\\_prefrec.htm](https://www3.epa.gov/scram001/dispersion_prefrec.htm).

meteorology to create a more accurate assessment of the locations where fenceline monitoring is needed.

AERMOD uses hourly meteorological data to assess the dispersion of emission plumes from several point, area, or volume sources in flat and complex terrain.

Special meteorological measurements were conducted from January 15, 2015, through late spring of 2015, to support the development of this monitoring plan. The data collected during this study were used to support the air pollutant dispersion modeling. Due to the infrequent nature of northeasterly wind events (the meteorological conditions of importance for transport to Benicia and the focus of the modeling), there were only a few days to model; these days included January 24, 2015, January 25, 2015, and January 26, 2015. Meteorological data collected on these days used in the model included sodar winds (continuous winds from about 20 m to 600 m above ground level), ceilometer mixing heights (roughly the height to which any emissions will mix), and surface winds.

Sources of benzene emissions at Valero's Benicia Refinery<sup>6</sup> were identified, and dispersion was modeled for three representative case-study days. Benzene measurement is a reasonable surrogate for other HAP emissions.<sup>7</sup> Maps of the 24-hr accumulative concentrations of benzene were produced for each of the days.

Figures 11 through 13 provide the model results for these case study days. The results predict very low benzene levels downwind of the refinery. The concentrations fields provide further evidence that the monitoring paths (Paths 1 and 2) upwind of the city of Benicia are in the correct location and that monitoring along the western/northwestern fenceline is not required. Any emission that would pass just north of Path 1 would also be captured by Path 1 monitors, because of pollutant dispersion.

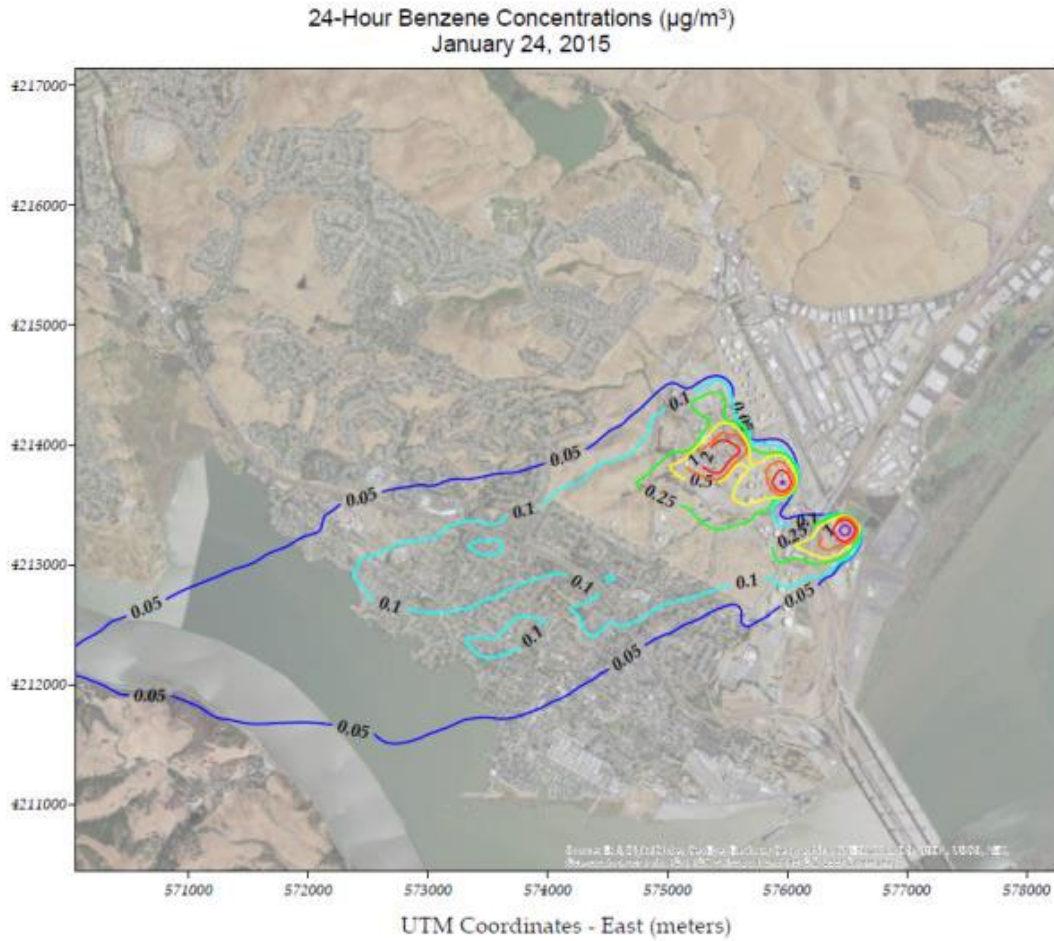
Because the east boundary that is upwind of the business/commercial area is covered by Monitoring Path 3, we did not perform modeling for the onshore, westerly wind events.

As noted in Figure 2, there is a small gap in coverage between monitoring Paths 1 and 2 over 2nd Street because it was not logistically feasible to measure in this area. However, the horizontal dispersion of any material released from the refinery would create a wide enough plume by the time the plume reached this gap, such that monitoring along both Paths 1 and 2 would measure any material.

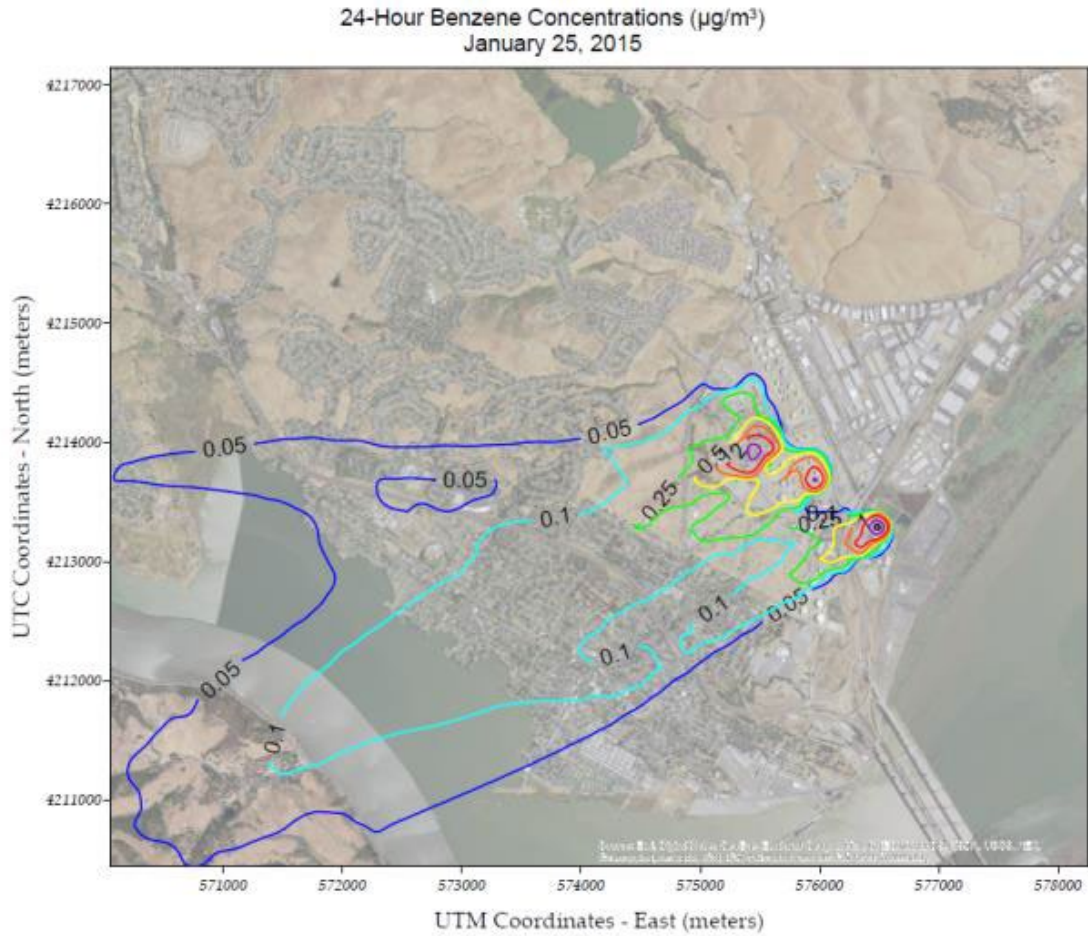
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<sup>6</sup> Based on 2010 EPA ICR data adjusted for the flue gas scrubber.

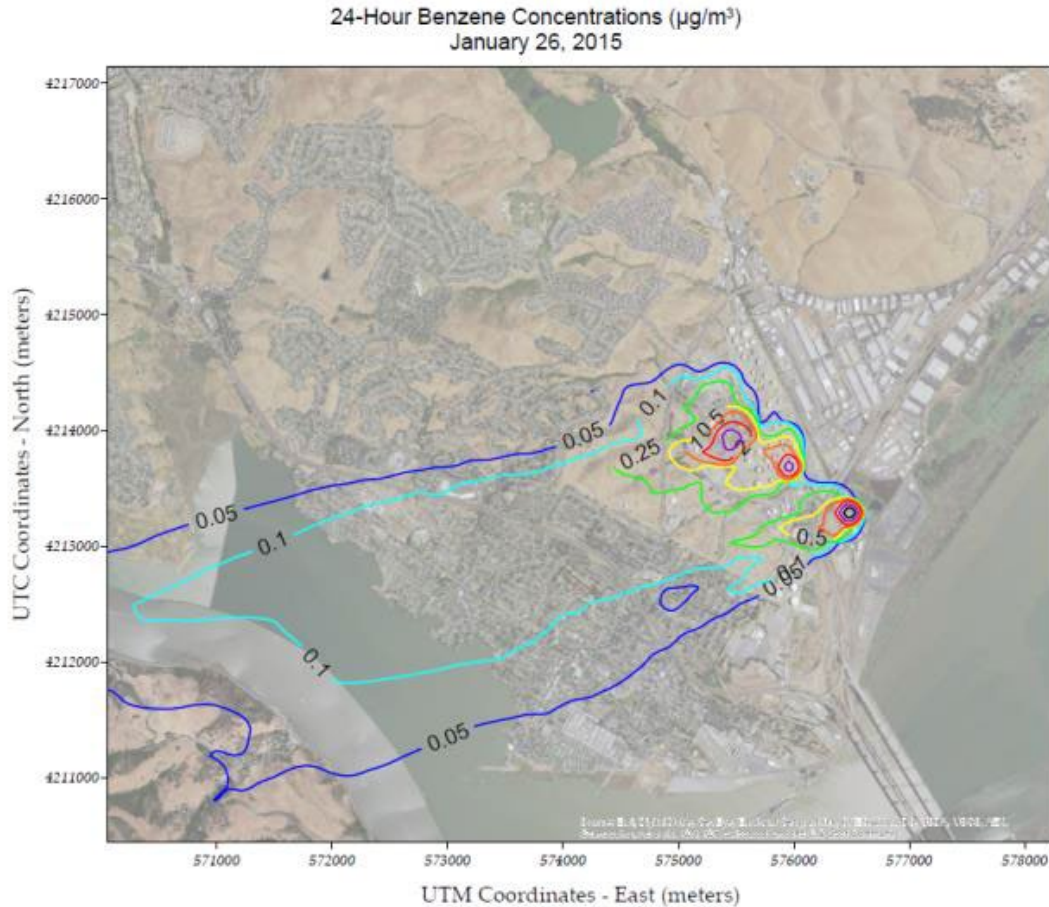
<sup>7</sup> Background section of Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and New Source Performance Standards.



**Figure 11.** Dispersion modeling results using meteorological data from January 24, 2015, showing predicted 24-hr average benzene concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Note: 1 ppb =  $3.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for benzene at 20°C and 1013 mb.



**Figure 12.** Dispersion modeling results using meteorological data from January 25, 2015, showing predicted 24-hr average benzene concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Note: 1 ppb =  $3.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for benzene at 20°C and 1013 mb.



**Figure 13.** Dispersion modeling results using meteorological data from January 26, 2015, showing predicted 24-hr average benzene concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Note: 1 ppb =  $3.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for benzene at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and 1013 mb.

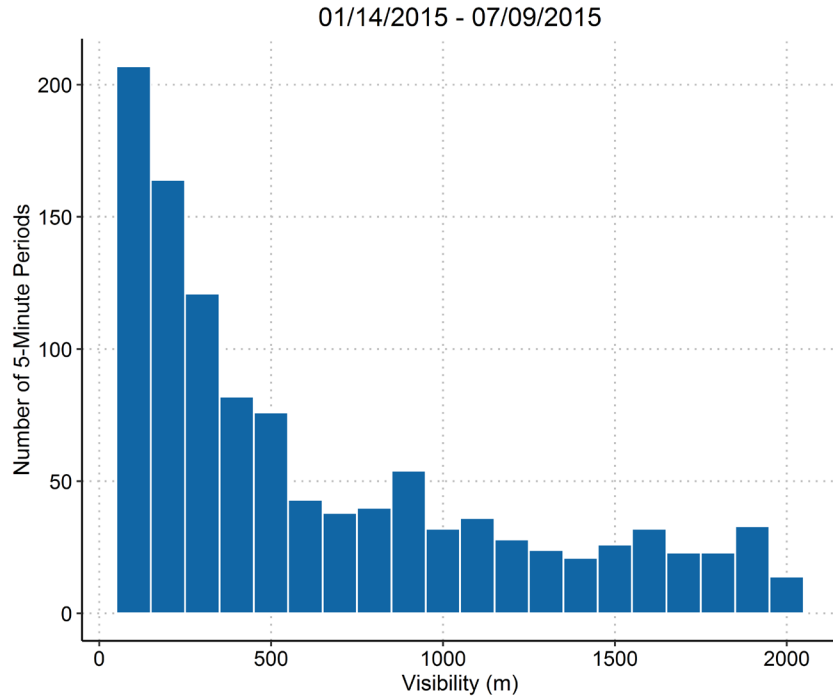
## 2.2.5 Visibility Conditions

Tule fog forms when there is high relative humidity (typically after rain), light wind, and rapid cooling. Tule fogs typically form in the California Central Valley, extending into the marshlands along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and into the Carquinez Straits, especially during the rainy season of late fall through early spring. Heavy fog may entirely block the signal from an open-path instrument and prevent data collection; however, even light fog can absorb the signal partially and interfere with measurements. Tule fogs may occur during periods when pollutant measurements are most critical because (1) the stable atmospheric conditions associated with Tule fogs are unfavorable for pollutant dispersal, and (2) they are most likely to occur during northeasterly wind events when residential receptors in Benicia are downwind from the refinery. **Figure 14** shows an example of the Tule fog at the refinery. To investigate visibility, a visibility monitor was operated at the refinery from January 14 through July 9, 2015.



**Figure 14.** Example of tule fog at the Valero Benicia refinery.

**Figure 15** shows that 617 5-min periods were recorded with visibility below 500 meters, and 839 periods were recorded with visibility below 1,000 meters. While the exact relationship between visibility and open-path measurements is not established, the expectation is that there would be no measurements when visibility is less than 2.5 miles. Assuming that the frequency of low visibility observed during mid-January to mid-July is representative of visibility from mid-July through mid-January, and that 2015 is representative of other years, we expect fog to preclude open-path measurements only about 5% of the time over the course of a year. Rule 12-15 allows for this missing data, but only if supported by visibility measurements. For this reason, visibility measurements are taken as part of the measurement program.



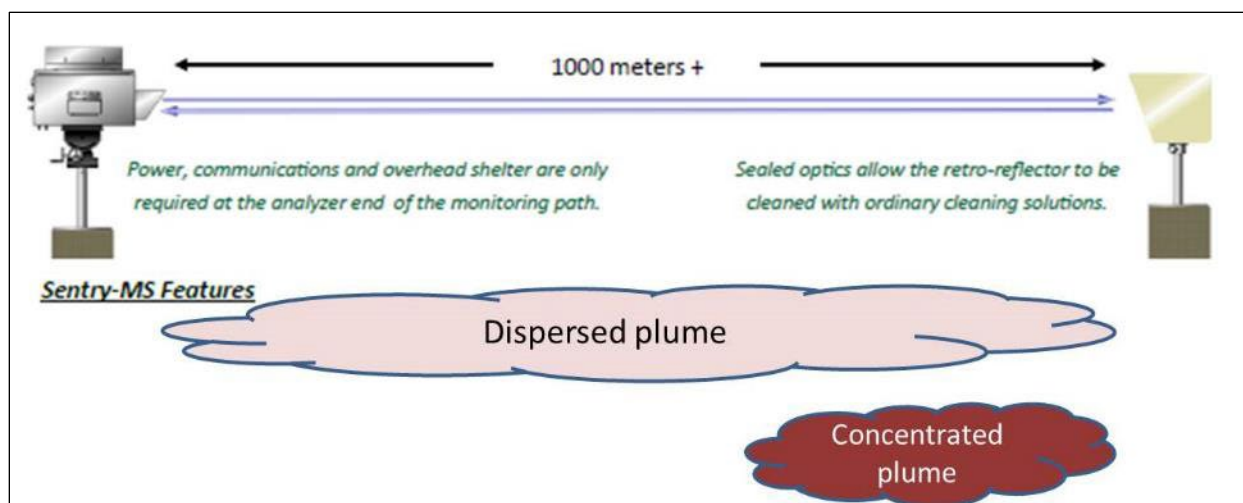
**Figure 15.** Histogram of 5-min visibility values less than 2,000 meters during January 14 through July 9, 2015.

## 2.2.6 Instrument Selection

Literature reviews, site surveys, and interviews with instrument manufacturers were performed to determine the instruments needed to meet Rule 12-15 requirements. Both fixed-site and open-path instruments were investigated. Based on the distances that need to be covered by measurements (hundreds of meters), data time-resolution requirements (5-min), and current measurement technology, open-path instruments were selected.

Monostatic open-path instruments transmit light across a long path, which is reflected straight back by a targeted mirror (“retroreflector”) for detection by a sensor located within the same housing as the light source. Energy absorption at different wavelengths is measured and recorded by the detector. Energy absorption relates to the average concentrations of gases of interest along the light path, according to Beer-Lambert’s absorption law, with individual gases having characteristic wavelengths at which they absorb most effectively. Therefore, measurements of absorption between the transmitter and detector can be used to infer average concentrations across the length of the path for species of interest. [Figure 16](#) illustrates the basic concepts of open-path measurements. Note that open-path measurements cannot distinguish between a widely dispersed, low-concentration plume and a narrow, high-concentration plume; they detect average concentrations across the entire distance from transmitter to detectors.





**Figure 16.** Basic premise for open-path instrument operation. Image from Cerex Sentry-MS monitoring brochure, used with permission from Cerex Monitoring Solutions, LLC.

Along all paths, BTEX and SO<sub>2</sub> is measured using a monostatic UV-DOAS with a xenon light source. The xenon light is required to achieve (1) measurements over paths that are about 300 to 600 meters long, and (2) the minimum detection limits (MDL) for BTEX. H<sub>2</sub>S is measured using monostatic TDLAS instruments. The basic principle of TDLAS is to measure the absorption of a single absorption line for the target pollutant. A tunable diode laser can emit light over a small range of very specific wavelengths, which allows spectral measurement over a narrow wavelength range. Based on measurements collected at the Valero Benicia refinery, it has been determined that MDLs lower than 25 ppb can be achieved on a routine basis. In theory, one can monitor H<sub>2</sub>S using UV-DOAS, but its absorption spectra overlaps with BTEX and generates false positives. While Fourier Transform Infrared Technology spectroscopy (FTIR) technology was considered for measurements of BTEX and H<sub>2</sub>S, instrument manufacturers informed Valero that FTIR is not suitable for these compounds because of poor detection limits and overlap in absorption with other compounds (such as carbon dioxide with benzene).

**Table 3** summarizes the MDL and upper detection limit (UDL) for each species by instrument for each measurement path, as provided by instrument manufacturers. The detection limits are for the average species concentration along a path; narrow plumes that only cover a portion of the path would need to have a higher concentration than the MDL to be detected. Under typical operating conditions, the Unisearch TDL is expected to have an MDL between 3 and 25 ppb between 1 and 3% transmission. The MDL may be higher than those listed in Table 3 if there is poor atmospheric visibility (e.g., heavy fog, rain, smoke, or dust), the instrument is misaligned, there are hardware problems, or an interferant is present. MDLs at the lower end of the specified range are expected under the opposite conditions.

For the Unisearch TDL, a real-time MDL is calculated continuously using the standard deviation of the last seven 5-min average concentration values containing no measurable analyte (as determined

by the correlation coefficient). The MDL is defined at three times this standard deviation and is reported alongside every 5-min average concentration value. Data with real-time MDL values greater than 25 ppb will be flagged for additional review and, in the absence of marginal operating conditions or an instrument malfunction, will be considered to not meet the performance criteria.

**Table 3.** Open-path instruments and approximate detection limits by pollutant and path. Actual limits are different and depend on ambient conditions.

Path		1-1'		1-1"		2-2''		2-2'		3-3'		3-3"	
Distance (meters)		326		481		609		567		578		549	
Technology	Compound	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)	MDL (ppb)	UDL (ppb)
TDLAS	Hydrogen Sulfide	25	12,000 <sup>a</sup>	25	7,200	25	6,300	25	6,500	25	6,500	25	7,100
UV-DOAS (Xenon)	Benzene	0.4	23,900	0.3	14,700	0.2	12,800	0.2	13,400	0.2	13,400	0.3	14,600
	Toluene	1.3	13,600	0.8	8,300	0.7	7,300	0.7	7,600	0.7	7,600	0.8	8,300
	Ethylbenzene	0.5	2,900	0.3	1,800	0.3	1,600	0.3	1,600	0.3	1,600	0.3	1,800
	Xylenes	5.9	7,300	3.6	4,500	3.2	3,900	3.3	4,100	3.3	4,100	3.6	4,400
	Sulfur Dioxide	1.1	6,800	0.7	4,200	0.6	3,600	0.6	3,800	0.6	3,800	0.9	4,100

Monostatic (as opposed to bistatic) instruments use mirrors to reflect sensor light; monostatic instruments have been selected to reduce the need for substantial power at the mirror sites and to improve MDL by increasing effective path lengths. Power, communications, and shelter are required at the light-source/detector end of the monitoring path only. The retro-reflector needs only to be aligned for maximum performance at the other end of the path and to be cleaned regularly. An example of a UV-DOAS analyzer and receiver in a shelter is shown in [Figure 17](#). The retro-reflector is shown in [Figure 18](#). For Path 3, the instruments and retroreflectors are placed on an elevated platform to avoid interference with passing vehicles (see the example in [Figure 19](#)).



**Figure 17.** Example of a UV-DOAS analyzer installation.



**Figure 18.** Example of a UV-DOAS retroreflector installation.



**Figure 19.** Example of a UV-DOAS analyzer installation on an elevated platform.

## 2.3 Data Management Requirements

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### 2.3.1 Data Recovery

BAAQMD guidance for open-path measurement data recovery requirements are shown in [Table 4](#). Because open-path measurements are affected by atmospheric conditions such as dense fog, missing data during low-visibility conditions do not count against completeness requirements. Visibility measurements are made using a forward scattering optical visibility sensor to document the time periods of reduced visibility. Open-path measurements are generally known to be impaired when visibility is less than 2.5 miles, although this depends on the siting of the visibility sensor with respect to the open-path monitors. Visibility measurements are made at least every 5 minutes to coincide with the open-path measurements.

**Table 4.** Data recovery requirements.

Completeness Requirement	Relevant to
75% per hour	5-min binned average data
90% per calendar quarter	1-hr rolling average data

Other factors that affect data availability include instrument bump test (monthly for a few hours), other maintenance (e.g., replacement of UV bulbs for the UV-DOAS after every 2,000 hours of use, roughly on a quarterly basis), and annual maintenance. For both UV-DOAS and TDLAS instruments, a backup system will be used when each of the primary instruments are returned to the manufacturer for extended maintenance. Regular maintenance and careful, responsive operation will minimize instrument downtime.

### 2.3.2 Data Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)

A key goal of the QA/QC plan is to ensure high-quality data that are representative and defensible. Clear definitions and procedures for QA/QC are also necessary to inform the public on why some data are missing, flagged as questionable, or invalid. Data review consists of the following types of actions.

An air quality specialist reviews bump test data, instrument field setup, and instrument functionality. Initial bump test data, data processing calculations (i.e., conversion of instrument signal to concentration), data file formats, and data transfer is verified. Throughout operations, the project QA manager ensures that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being followed, operators are documenting field operations in field data sheets and logbooks, instrument performance checks are being conducted, and instruments are passing the performance checks.

Additional checks focus on internal consistency of the data. Both automatic screening and manual review of data streams is conducted. An air quality specialist performs daily review of data to ensure proper operation of field equipment and provide feedback to the field operators when potential problems are identified. By keeping monitoring equipment operational, higher data completeness can be achieved.

Details regarding the QA/QC process can be found in Section 3.2.1 and in the QAPP (Appendix A).

## 3. Routine Operations

For this monitoring program, 6 UV-DOAS, 6 TDLAS, and 2 visibility instruments have been installed and are currently collecting measurements. Instrument operations, maintenance, and bump tests include daily checks to ensure that data are flowing from all instruments, as well as monthly, quarterly, and annual maintenance activities. Further details are provided in the following sections, which describe routine instrument and data management operations. Full details and documentation are included in the QAPP, which is provided in Appendix A.

In addition, as requested by BAAQMD, sorbent tubes are used at three locations (labeled 10, 11, and 12 in Figure 2). The sorbent tubes at these locations are replaced and analyzed for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes approximately every 14 days in accordance with the 40 CFR Subpart CC Fenceline Monitoring program. Valero reviews the BTEX results and submit them to the District in a District-approved formatted spreadsheet within 30 days after receiving the results. Because the two-week monitoring period results in 26 samples per calendar year, the availability of laboratory results is not expected to align with calendar months. Therefore, Valero submits the results within 30 days of receipt and verification.

Valero follows the 40 CFR 63.658(e)(3) burden reduction schedule for sampling. If an individual monitor consistently achieves benzene results at or below  $0.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , the sampling frequency is reduced. For the purposes of the Rule 12-15 compliance program, the monitoring at locations 10, 11, and 12 will also be reduced.

Should three or more sampling events in one year exceed  $9.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of benzene at an individual monitor between paths 2 and 3, Valero will increase the submittal frequency to the District to within two weeks after receiving the results from the laboratory. Once there is a 12-month period with no benzene results greater than  $9.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , the results will resume being submitted to the District within one month after receiving the results.

In the event the annual rolling average benzene concentration (deltaC) at sample locations 10, 11, or 12 exceeds the  $9.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  action level (as defined in 40 CFR 63.658), Valero will work with the District to consider installation of a UV-DOAS open-path monitor at this monitoring point location.

### 3.1 Instrument Operations

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#### 3.1.1 UV-DOAS

The UV-DOAS system is designed to require only modest service and maintenance. [Table 5](#) summarizes typical UV-DOAS maintenance activities as recommended by the manufacturer.



Preventive maintenance frequency depends on the operating environment and may need to be adjusted. On an as-needed basis, system status alarms will alert operators to specific issues needing to be addressed.

**Table 5.** Schedule of maintenance activities for the UV-DOAS.

Activity	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Visually inspect the system (an evolving check list is maintained).	✓		
Inspect optics on detector and retro-reflector; clean if necessary.	✓		
Inspect and clean system filters.	✓		
Confirm the alignment to verify there has not been significant physical movement. This is accomplished by noting the integration time and signal strength – both should be less than 250 ms and greater than 90%, respectively.	✓		
Download data older than 6 months from the analyzer hard drive, move to a permanent archive, and delete the old files from the analyzer.	✓		
Ensure no obstructions between the detector and the retro-reflector (such as equipment, vegetation, vehicles).	✓		
Inspect all electrical cables for wear; replace as needed.	✓		
Review and test light and signal levels. Check average light intensity to establish baseline for bulb change frequency. Realign system if integration time exceeds 250 ms.	✓		
Change out the UV source if the intensity has dropped below acceptable range (service hours >2000 hours and intensity at 250 nm < 3% with 40 ms dwell time under high visibility conditions).		✓	
Replace ventilation exit and intake filters.		✓	
Clean and inspect optics on detector and retro-reflector.		✓	
Realign system after service. Ensure integration time is less than 250 ms and intensity is greater than 90% under high visibility conditions.		✓	
Check other system performance indicators, if necessary.		✓	
Perform bump test (simulates system-observed gas content at the required path average concentration) to verify the system can detect at or below a lower alarm limit. Change calibration factors if the concentration is more than 20% different from expected value (% Accuracy).	✓		
Verify system settings.			✓

### 3.1.2 TDLAS

The TDLAS has similar maintenance activities to the UV-DOAS. The TDLAS system is also designed to require only modest service and maintenance. [Table 6](#) summarizes TDLAS maintenance activities, as

recommended by the manufacturer. Preventative maintenance frequency depends on the operating environment and may need to be adjusted. On an as-needed basis, system status alarms may alert operators to specific issues that need to be addressed.

**Table 6.** Schedule of maintenance activities for the TDLAS.

Activity	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Visually inspect the system.	✓		
Inspect optics on detector, clean if necessary.	✓		
Check the alignment to verify there has not been significant physical movement and confirm signal levels. Signal power should be greater than 0.4.	✓		
Download data older than 6 months from the analyzer hard drive, move to a permanent archive, and delete the old files from the analyzer.	✓		
Ensure there are no obstructions between the detector and the retro-reflector (such as equipment, vegetation, or vehicles).	✓		
Inspect all electrical and optical cables for wear. Replace as needed.	✓		
Check system performance indicators (an evolving checklist is maintained).		✓	
Perform bump test using sealed cells (simulates system-observed gas content at the required path average concentration) to verify the system can detect at or below a lower alarm limit. Take corrective action if % accuracy is more than 25%.	✓		
Review and test light and signal levels <sup>a</sup> . Signal power should be greater than 0.4.		✓	
3-point calibration check using sealed cells. Take corrective action if % Accuracy is greater than 25%.		✓	
Verify system settings.			✓

<sup>a</sup>Although signal strength is recorded in real time, it is recommended to consider longer term trends in signal intensity to evaluate the health of the optical components, the effects of cleaning optical components, and the noise characteristics of the spectral data.

### 3.1.3 Visibility Instruments

For the visibility instruments, monthly maintenance includes inspecting the sensor for dirt, spider webs, birds' nests, or other obstructions. If the sensor is dirty, the glass windows can be cleaned with glass cleaner. There are no serviceable components in the sensor.

The sensors are calibrated in the field using a manufacturer-specific calibration kit. A calibration kit consists of a blocking plate or block for checking the sensor zero and a scatter plate for checking the sensor span. The calibration fixture is assigned a factory-traceable extinction coefficient (EXCO) used to calculate the expected values during calibrations. Calibrations will be performed every year as specified by a manufacturer.

## 3.2 Data Management Operations

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Raw data management occurs on a real-time, daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. These raw data are not yet intended for the public website. In near-real time, data is transferred from in-field instruments through a data acquisition system (DAS) to a Data Management System (DMS) using a cell modem. Data are also stored onsite on instrument computers in case of cell modem failure. The DMS uses a Microsoft SQL relational database with stored procedures.

The DMS automatically quality-controls data, detects outliers and problems, generates reports, and creates alerts. The auto-screening and graphical capabilities are used for continuous examination of data quality. The DMS feeds auto-screened data to the field operations website and notification system to inform and alert project and facility staff. The operations website shows maps and time series plots of BTEX, H<sub>2</sub>S, and SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and wind data are also displayed on the maps.

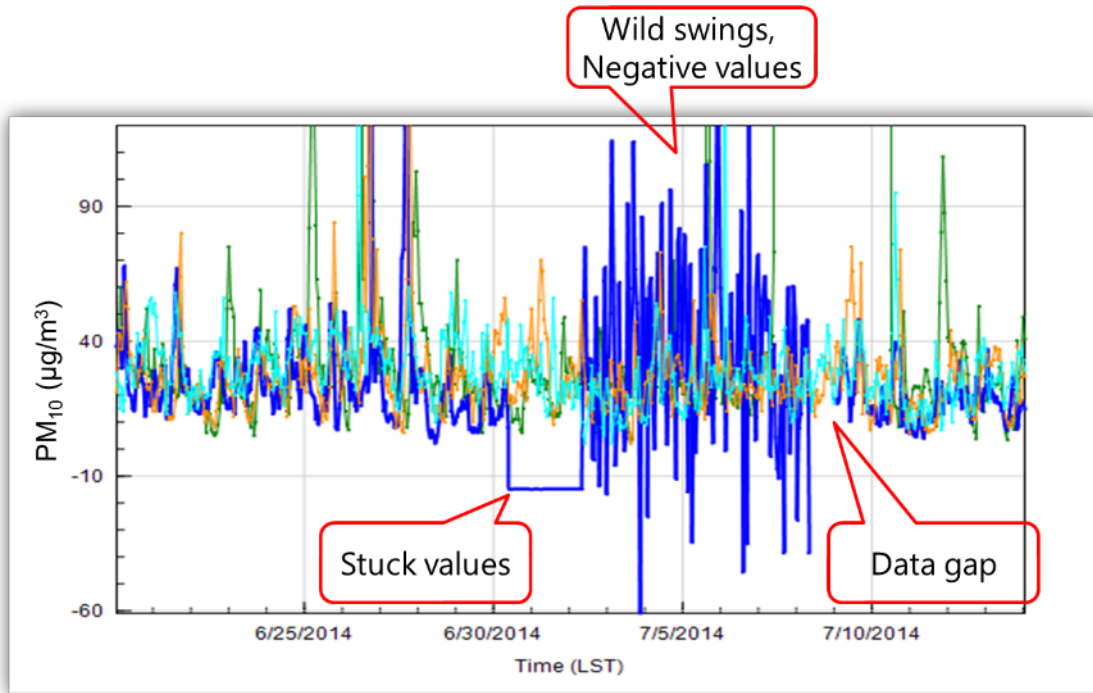
### 3.2.1 QA/QC

All data values that are not associated with bump tests, other instrument maintenance, or instrument problems are displayed to the public in near-real time. If data are subsequently proven to be invalid, they are removed from the public display.

A non-public field operations website is used for daily graphical review of the data (see example at [Figure 20](#)). Common problems include flat signal/constant values, no signal/missing data, extremely noisy signal, rapid changes (spikes or dips), and negative concentrations (see annotated [Figure 21](#) for some examples). An initial review, typically of a one- to two-day running time-series plot of selected parameters for each instrument, allows the analyst to see common problems and verify instruments are operational. If it appears that an instrument is not operating, or the data are missing, the field operator is notified and further investigation and corrective action, if needed, is taken.



Figure 20. Example of non-public field operations website used for daily review of instrument operations.



**Figure 21.** Example of pollutant concentration time series showing stuck values, wild swings, large negative values, and a data gap. All of these are indicators of instrument issues.

Concentration patterns are reviewed to confirm that they are reasonable with respect to the time of day, season, meteorology, and concentrations are expected and observed at other sites. If anomalies are observed, additional analysis is conducted to determine if there is an instrument malfunction or the data are truly anomalous, but explainable and valid.

Visual review of data is augmented by automated data screening within the DMS upon data ingest. Automated screening checks of data feeds are helpful to focus the analyst’s efforts on the data that need the most attention and are used to screen out invalid data for public display. Initial screening checks, along with actions to be taken, are summarized in [Table 7](#). The screening check concentration criteria are based on an analysis of expected instrument performance, concentration levels of concern by compound, and typical ambient concentrations by compound. All screening criteria (flags and rates of change) is refined during the project based on actual observations. In summary, the DMS auto-screening checks that are used include:

- **Range.** These checks verify that the instrument is not reporting values outside of reasonable minimum and maximum concentrations.
- **Sticking.** If values are repeated for a number of sampling intervals, data are reviewed for validity. Typically, four or more intervals of sticking values are a reasonable time span to indicate that an investigation is needed. Sticking checks are not applied to data below the instrument detection limit.

- **Rate of Change.** Values that change rapidly without reasonable cause are flagged and reviewed.
- **Missing.** If data are missing, data during those time periods is coded as missing. Missing data may indicate a power issue, an instrumentation problem, or a data communication problem. The time period allowed for missing data may be adjusted as the project proceeds to reduce false or excessive alerting. An alert is issued when six 5-minute values (i.e., 30 minutes) are missed.
- **Sensor OP Codes and Alarms.** If the instrument assigns operation (op) codes to data automatically (e.g., for bump tests, internal flow rate checks), the data are reviewed, codes confirmed, and data flags checked.
- **Visibility Impairment.** While the exact relationship between visibility and open-path measurements is not established, the expectation is that there would be no measurements collected when visibility is less than 2.5 miles.

Additional QC checks for the instruments are summarized in [Table 8](#). Data that fail checks are flagged in the DMS and brought to the attention of the reviewer by color coding in the graphic summaries. Data are invalidated only if a known reason can be found for the anomaly or automated screening check failure. If the data are anomalous or fail screening, but no reason can be found to invalidate the data, the data are flagged as suspect. Additional analysis may be needed to deem data valid, invalid, or suspect. Common reasons for invalidation include instrument malfunction, power failure, and bump test data that were not identified as such. As the measurements progress, the screening checks are updated and refined. Screening checks are typically specific to the site, instrument, time of day, and season and adjusted over time as more data are collected.

In addition to auto-screening and daily visual checks, data are subjected to more in-depth review on a quarterly basis and when data fail screening. Final data sets are compiled quarterly, 60 days after each quarter, and provided to the BAAQMD.

On a quarterly basis, validation checks include:

- Looking for statistical anomalies and outliers in the data
- Inspecting several sampling intervals before and after data issues or instrument tests or repairs
- Evaluating monthly summaries of minimum, maximum, and average values
- Ensuring data reasonableness by comparing to remote background concentrations and average urban concentrations
- Referring to site and operator logbooks to see if some values may be unusual or questionable based on observations by site operator
- Ensuring that data are realistically achievable, i.e., not outside the limits of what can be measured by the instrument
- Confirming that bump tests were conducted and were within specifications

These in-depth analyses typically require data that are not available in real time and ensure that final data sets are fully validated.

On a quarterly basis, to ensure all the daily QC tasks are complete, analysts:

- Review any instrument bump test results.
- Verify that daily instrument checks were acceptable
- Review manual changes to operations/data, and verify that the changes were logged and appropriately flagged
- Ensure that daily instrument checks have the appropriate QC and OP codes applied

On a quarterly basis, analysts subject the data to final QC by:

- Filling in missing records with null values, and add OP Codes
  - If a record is not created for a particular site/date/time/parameter combination, a null record will be created for data completeness purposes.
  - Invalid data will have an OP Code, or in other words, a reason for being invalid.
  - Inspect data consistency over three months.
  - Review ranges of values for consistency—ranges should remain consistent over months of monitoring.
  - Check bump test values for consistency.
  - Review quarterly data completeness.

All actions are documented in the DMS, which retains raw data and traceability of all actions that result in the final data. Additional details on the final QC process are provided in the QAPP.

On an annual basis, Valero or its designated contractor reviews the performance of the network by reviewing the data completeness by monitoring path, instrument, and species; by reviewing results of bump tests; by analyzing the reported values in the context of refinery operations; and by analyzing the data in the context of the meteorology. The results are summarized in an internal technical memorandum and provided to the BAAQMD upon request.

**Table 7.** Initial screening checks for 5-min data. All valid and flagged data values are displayed to the public in real time. If data are invalid, they are be included in the public display. During data validation, flagged data will be further investigated.

Measurement (units)	Approximate MDL for a 598-m Path <sup>a</sup>	DMS Auto-Screening Checks					
		Range	Sticking	Rate of Change	Missing	Sensor OP Codes and Alarms	Visibility Impairment
Benzene (ppb)	0.2 ppb. If below, flag as below MDL.	If above <u>24 ppb</u> , flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	If the same value is observed for four or more intervals, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	If value changes by more than 12 ppb, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	If data are missing, code as missing on the website and investigate the cause.	If sensor indicates malfunction or bump test data, code as appropriate and do not display the data.	If visibility is less than 2.5 miles, code as invalid on the website due to low visibility.
Toluene (ppb)	0.7 ppb. If below, flag as below MDL.	If above <u>100 ppb</u> , flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.		If value changes by more than 50 ppb, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.			
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	0.3 ppb. If below, flag as below MDL.	If above <u>100 ppb</u> , flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.		If value changes by more than 50 ppb, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.			
Total Xylene (ppb)	3.2 ppb. If below, flag as below MDL.	If above <u>100 ppb</u> , flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	If the same value is observed for four or more intervals, flag data as suspect on the	If value changes by more than 50 ppb, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	If data are missing, flag as missing on the	If sensor indicates malfunction or bump test data,	If visibility is less than 2.5 miles, code as invalid on the website



Measurement (units)	Approximate MDL for a 598-m Path <sup>a</sup>	DMS Auto-Screening Checks					
		Range	Sticking	Rate of Change	Missing	Sensor OP Codes and Alarms	Visibility Impairment
SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	0.6 ppb. If below, flag as below MDL.	If above <u>37.5 ppb</u> , flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	website and investigate validity.	If value changes by more than 19 ppb, flag as suspect on the website and investigate validity.	website and investigate cause.	code as appropriate and do not display data.	due to low visibility.
H <sub>2</sub> S (ppb)	25 ppb.	If above 30 ppb, flag data as suspect on the website and investigate validity.		If value changes by more than 30 ppb, flag as suspect on the website and investigate validity.			
Visibility (meters)	If value is less than 0, flag data.	Not applicable		Not applicable			Not applicable

<sup>a</sup>MDL is dependent on atmospheric conditions. Valid data below MDL is evaluated on the basis of correlation coefficient and other operational parameters such as signal strength. If data below the MDL are determined to be valid, but the concentration is below the MDL, it is flagged as below MDL on the public website and in the database

**Table 8.** Instrument QA/QC checks<sup>a</sup>.

QA/QC Checks	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria
<b>UV-DOAS</b>		
Bump test (accuracy)	Monthly and after major service	±20%
Measurement quality – R <sup>2</sup>	Continuous	0.8 to 1.0
Integration time	Continuous	≤250 ms
Signal intensity	Continuous	≥70%
<b>TDLAS</b>		
Bump test <sup>b</sup> - accuracy and repeatability (as %CV); H <sub>2</sub> S at concentration differing from 3-point calibration points.	Monthly	±25%
3-point calibration accuracy and repeatability (as %CV) <sup>b, c</sup>	Quarterly	±25% for [H <sub>2</sub> S] < 2000 ppmm ±10% for 2000 ≤ [H <sub>2</sub> S] ≤ 7000 ppmm ±10 % for [H <sub>2</sub> S] > 7000 ppmm
5-min MDL	Continuous	≤25 ppb
H <sub>2</sub> S correlation coefficient (r)	Continuous	0.72 to 1.0
Signal Power	Continuous	≥0.4
H <sub>2</sub> O correlation coefficient (r)	Continuous	≥0.95
<b>Visibility Sensor</b>		
Accuracy	Annually	±25%

<sup>a</sup> Valid data below MDL is evaluated on the basis of correlation coefficient and other operational parameters such as signal strength. If data below the MDL are determined to be valid, but the concentration is below the MDL, it is flagged as below MDL on the public website and in the database.

<sup>b</sup> Sealed cell development is in process to enable bump checks and 3-point calibration checks; the accuracy of tests using this equipment still needs to be determined for the TDLAS.

<sup>c</sup> NIST TN 1297: Appendix D1. Terminology.

Auto-screening checks were discussed in Section 3.2.1. Data flagged through auto-screening are graphically reviewed, and QC flags are updated with daily and quarterly actions (see [Figure 22](#)). DMS keeps track of data changes in its chain of custody feature—i.e., raw data are preserved as well as all changes.

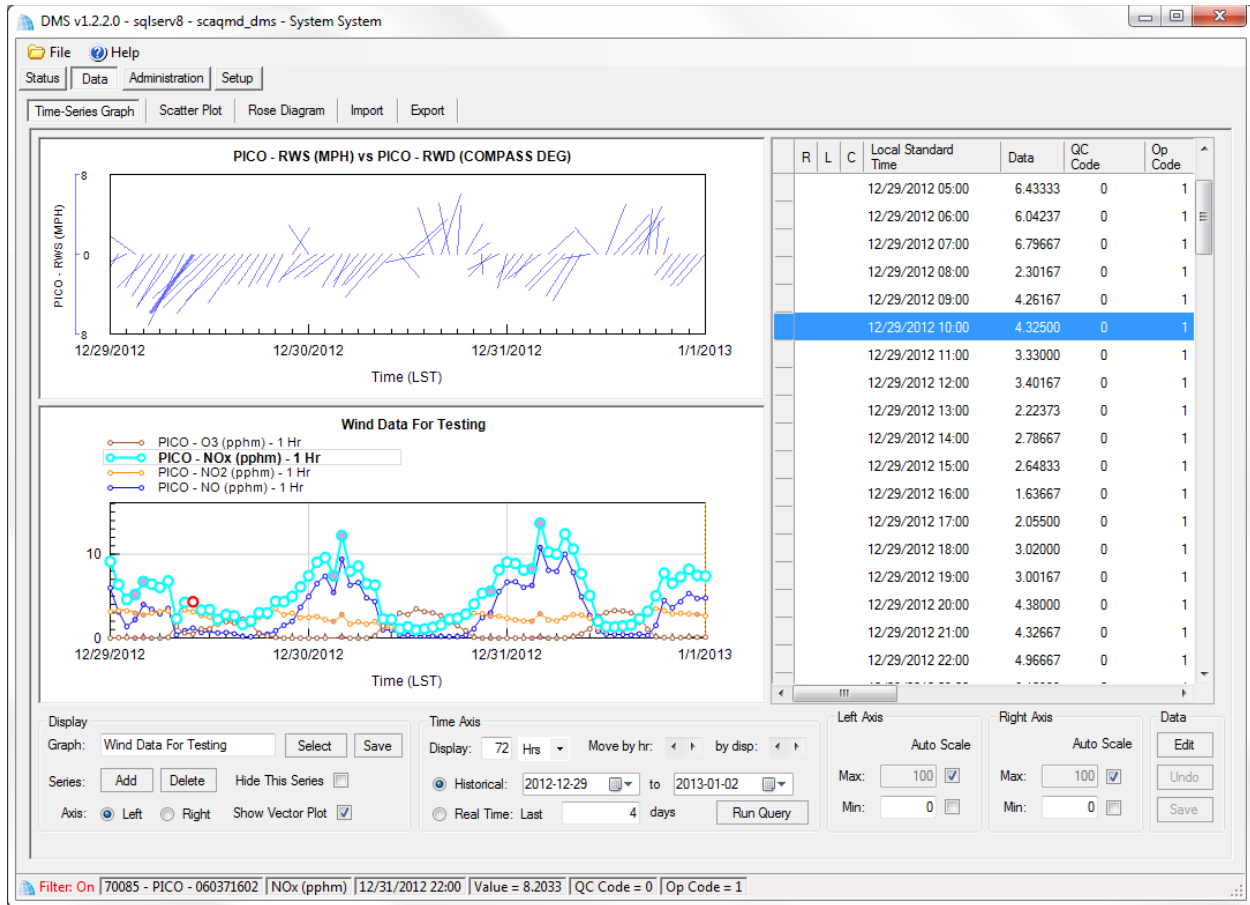


Figure 22. Screenshot of DMS showing winds and pollutant concentrations.

### 3.2.2 Public Data Availability and Display

Data are screened in real time upon ingest into the DMS, as described in previous sections. Automated procedures are used to ensure that data are properly ingested, stored, processed, and quality-assured, and that products are delivered to a public-facing website in real time, defined here as 10 minutes or less after data collection.

For the public website, key components include visual display of data in real time, context for the public to better understand the concentrations displayed, and a mechanism for feedback on the website.

The preliminary quality controlled data are presented in a time series of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations, and visibility, wind speed, and wind direction. Data are provided as 5-min binned averages. Additionally, for the Unisearch TDL, 5-min MDLs will be displayed in real-time. Data are color-coded and annotated for quality (valid, invalid, suspect, missing). An example of a public-facing website that allows users to explore data is shown in Figure 23.

In the event that high concentration levels occur, Valero will follow its existing event protocol and the City of Benicia will decide when it is appropriate to activate its emergency alert program. Episodic data will be provided to the BAAQMD upon request, consistent with other regulatory measurements.

Once QA/QC of the final data is completed (within 60 days after the end of each calendar quarter), rolling hourly and 5-min concentrations of species will be provided in .csv format along with Site Code, Local Standard Time, Measurement Duration, Concentration Value, Signal Strength, Concentration Unit, and QC and OP codes defined in Table 4-1. Signal power and real time 5-min MDLs will be provided for the TDL. The BAAQMD may make the one-hour average data available to the public through a BAAQMD website or through public records request. The refinery will make data available to BAAQMD upon request prior to the report submittal. Raw spectral data files will be saved as single files and made available to the Air District upon request.

All data will be retained by the facility for a period of five years, consistent with Regulation 12-15-502.

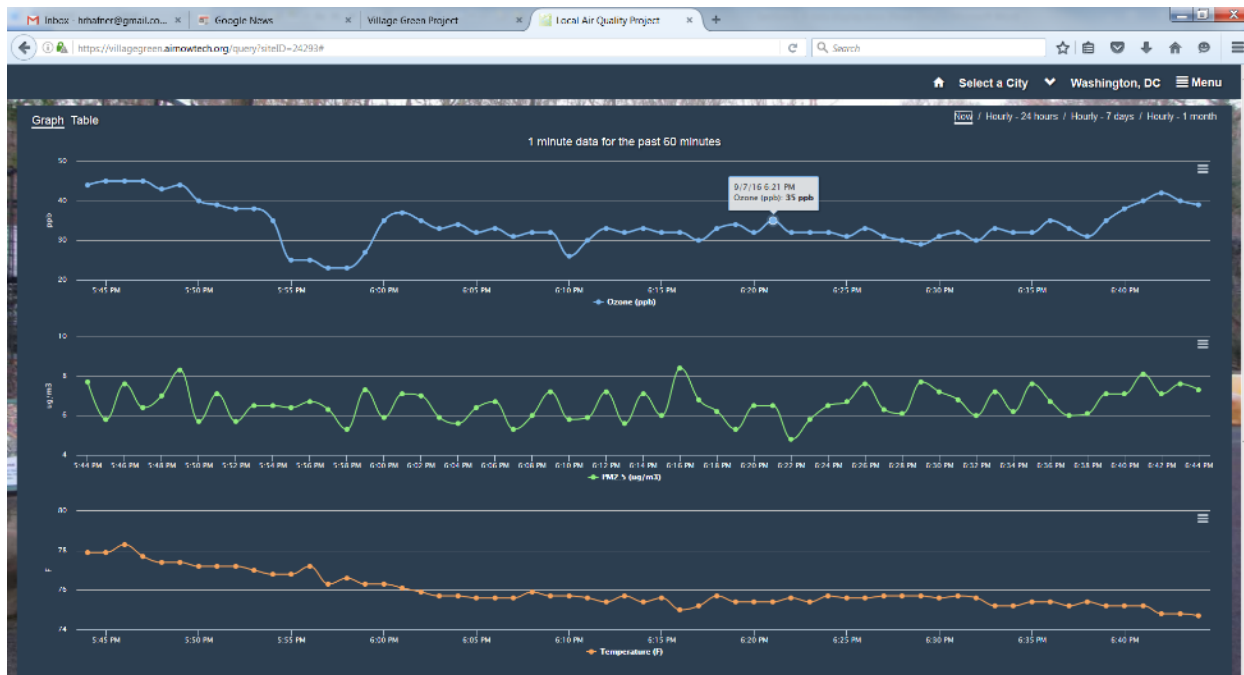


Figure 23. Example of a public-facing web page.

The collected data are high time resolution, spatially variable, and chemically complex. To provide context to this complex data set for the public, the following information is included through a combination of links, graphics, or captions:

- Information about the species measured and the measurement techniques.
- Context of what fenceline measurements represent as compared to other regional air quality measurements and as outlined by BAAQMD.
- Health data provided on the webpage is sourced from OEHHA official information.

- Discussion of non-refinery sources that could affect the measured concentrations
- Definitions of abbreviations
- Discussion of data below detection
- Definition of data QC flags and their meaning
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs; *to be developed over time*)
- Quality procedures

Information is written at a public-friendly level. Clarity and thoroughness help to reduce the number of questions that arise.

To facilitate public feedback, a feedback button is provided on the web page. When a user clicks on the button, an email form will pop up for the user to submit comments about the website. The email will be delivered to a Valero contact and a designated consultant responsible for deciding how to respond to the public comments. The emails received through the website are archived. Although not all comments have to be addressed, all comments will be made available to BAAQMD upon request. Some of the comments may aid in the creation of FAQs.

## 4. Document Control

Document No.	Rev No.	Rev Date	Effective Date	Distribution	Description
AMP	1	4/14/2017		BAAQMD, Refinery Project Manager, QA Manager	Initial Submission
AMP	2	7/24/2017		BAAQMD, Refinery Project Manager, QA Manager	Revised in response to BAAQMD comments
AMP	3	9/7/2017		BAAQMD, Refinery Project Manager, QA Manager	Revised in response to BAAQMD comments
AMP	4	7/23/2018		BAAQMD, Refinery Project Manager, QA Manager	Updated per District requests to (1) include chemical species data collected by sorbent tubes on the southeast corner of the refinery and (2) to reflect that hydrogen sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S) monitoring will be implemented on a different schedule due to unproven H <sub>2</sub> S open-path measurement technology at this time
AMP	5	6/1/2022		Refinery Project Manager, Routine Operations Project Manager, QA Manager, Field Staff Manager, Instrument Contractors, Data Manager, Website/Data System Manager, BAAQMD	Revised in response to BAAQMD comments; revised TDL measurement
AMP	6	2/3/2023		Refinery Project Manager, Routine Operations Project Manager, QA Manager, Field Staff Manager, Instrument Contractors, Data Manager, Website/Data System Manager, BAAQMD	Revised in response to BAAQMD comments; revised TDL measurement