SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

COM 2170

APPROVED:	Signed	DATE:	December 28, 2006
	Jon Adams		
	Director of Compliance		

TITLE: RULE 4454 - REFINERY PROCESS UNIT TURNAROUND

SUBJECT: REFINERY PROCESS UNIT TURNAROUND

OBJECTIVE:

To establish uniform District policies and procedures for implementation of Rule 4454 – Refinery Process Unit Turnaround.

PURPOSE:

To minimize VOC emissions resulting from the purging, repair, cleaning, or otherwise opening or releasing pressure from a refinery vessel during a process unit turnaround.

POLICY STATEMENT:

District staff will enforce Rule 4454 pertaining to the discharge of VOCs to the atmosphere from refinery vessels during a process unit turnaround. Failure to comply with the requirements of this rule is a violation and may subject the source to enforcement action.

PROCEDURES:

- 1. When depressurizing vessels with a pressure of 5 psig (1020 mm Hg) or greater, the organic vapors shall be collected or combusted. The vapors shall be:
 - a. Recovered and routed to a fuel gas system; or
 - b. Controlled and piped to an appropriate firebox; or
 - c. Flared.

In order to verify the above requirement, trace the process flows of equipment. Check the pressure gauges, flow meters, and the opened or closed position of valves. Review operational records on vessel pressures, and vapor flow rates from vessels to combustion units.

- 2. Verify that the vessels are depressurized to less than 5 psig (1020 mm Hg) prior to venting to atmosphere. If the vessel pressure cannot be reduced to below 5 psig, then the facility shall apply for an emergency variance.
- 3. If the facility is found to be in non-compliance, issue a Notice of Violation.