

## **Environmental group sues over dioxin releases into SF Bay**

San Francisco—Two environmental groups sued state and local regulators Tuesday for increasing the amount of dioxin an oil refinery is allowed to release into San Francisco Bay.

Communities for a Better Environment and San Francisco Bay-Keeper filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court charging that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board violated state and federal guidelines on dioxin pollution.

The regional control board changed the amount of dioxin that the Golden Eagle Refinery, owned by Ultramar Diamond Shamrock, could release into the Bay from 0.14 picograms per liter to 0.65 picograms per liter, and the state board approved the permit. The groups say that the Clean Water Act prohibits the weakening of dioxin regulations.

The suit is seeking to have the level of acceptable dioxin discharge reduced to 0.14 picograms.

Dioxin is a highly toxic chemical that can damage the immune system.

The two groups also are concerned that the higher levels of dioxin that can be released will poison fishermen who eat their catches from the bay.