

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 1, 2015

AGENDA NO. 15

REPORT: Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received By SCAQMD

SYNOPSIS: This report provides, for the Board's consideration, a listing of CEQA documents received by the SCAQMD between March 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015, and those projects for which the SCAQMD is acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source, April 17, 2015, Reviewed

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

EC:PF:SN:MK:JW:AK

CEQA Document Receipt and Review Logs (Attachments A and B) – Each month, the SCAQMD receives numerous CEQA documents from other public agencies on projects that could adversely affect air quality. A listing of all documents received and reviewed during the reporting period of March 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015 is included in Attachment A. A list of active projects from previous reporting periods for which SCAQMD staff is continuing to evaluate or has prepared comments is included as Attachment B.

The Intergovernmental Review function, which consists of reviewing and commenting on the adequacy of the air quality analysis in CEQA documents prepared by other lead agencies, is consistent with the Board's 1997 Environmental Justice Guiding Principles and Environmental Justice Initiative #4. Furthermore, as required by the Environmental Justice Program Enhancements for FY 2002-03 approved by the Board in September 2002, each of the attachments notes those proposed projects where the SCAQMD has been contacted regarding potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns.

The SCAQMD has established an internal central contact to receive information on projects with potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The public may contact the SCAQMD about projects of concern by the following means: in writing via fax, email, or standard letters; through telephone communication; as part of oral comments at SCAQMD meetings or other meetings where SCAQMD staff is present; or submitting newspaper articles. The attachments also identify for each project, the dates of the public comment period and the public hearing date, as reported at the time the CEQA document is received by the SCAQMD. Interested parties should rely on the lead agencies themselves for definitive information regarding public comment periods and hearings as these dates are occasionally modified by the lead agency.

At the January 6, 2006 Board meeting, the Board approved the Workplan for the Chairman's Clean Port Initiatives. One action item of the Chairman's Initiatives was to prepare a monthly report describing CEQA documents for projects related to goods movement and to make full use of the process to ensure the air quality impacts of such projects are thoroughly mitigated. In response to describing goods movement, CEQA documents (Attachments A and B) are organized to group projects of interest into the following categories: goods movement projects; schools; landfills and wastewater projects; airports; and general land use projects, etc. In response to the mitigation component, guidance information on mitigation measures were compiled into a series of tables relative to: off-road engines; on-road engines; harbor craft; ocean-going vessels; locomotives; fugitive dust; and greenhouse gases. These mitigation measure tables are on the CEQA webpages portion of the SCAQMD's website. Staff will continue compiling tables of mitigation measures for other emission sources, including airport ground support equipment, etc.

As resources permit, staff focuses on reviewing and preparing comments for projects: where the SCAQMD is a responsible agency; that may have significant adverse regional air quality impacts (e.g., special event centers, landfills, goods movement, etc.); that may have localized or toxic air quality impacts (e.g., warehouse and distribution centers); where environmental justice concerns have been raised; and those projects for which a lead or responsible agency has specifically requested SCAQMD review. If the SCAQMD staff provided written comments to the lead agency as noted in the column "Comment Status", there is a link to the "SCAQMD Letter" under the Project Description. In addition, if the SCAQMD staff testified at a hearing for the proposed project, a notation is provided under the "Comment Status." However, if there is no notation, then SCAQMD staff did not provide testimony at a hearing for the proposed project.

During the period March 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015, the SCAQMD received 99 CEQA documents. Of the total of 112 documents* listed in Attachments A and B:

- 35 comment letters were sent;
- 17 documents were reviewed, but no comments were made;
- 20 documents are currently under review;
- 0 documents did not require comments (e.g., public notices, plot plans, Final Environmental Impact Reports);
- 0 documents was not reviewed; and
- 40 documents were screened without additional review.

* These statistics are from March 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015 and do not include the most recent “Comment Status” updates in Attachments A and B.

Copies of all comment letters sent to lead agencies can be found on the SCAQMD’s CEQA webpage at the following internet address:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/commenting-agency/comment-letter-year-2014>.

SCAQMD Lead Agency Projects (Attachment C) – Pursuant to CEQA, the SCAQMD periodically acts as lead agency for stationary source permit projects. Under CEQA, the lead agency is responsible for determining the type of CEQA document to be prepared if the proposal is considered to be a “project” as defined by CEQA. For example, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared when the SCAQMD, as lead agency, finds substantial evidence that the proposed project may have significant adverse effects on the environment. Similarly, a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared if the SCAQMD determines that the proposed project will not generate significant adverse environmental impacts, or the impacts can be mitigated to less than significance. The ND and MND are written statements describing the reasons why proposed projects will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and, therefore, do not require the preparation of an EIR.

Attachment C to this report summarizes the active projects for which the SCAQMD is lead agency and is currently preparing or has prepared environmental documentation. During March, one new Lead Agency project began evaluation. As noted in Attachment C, the SCAQMD continued working on the CEQA documents for six active projects during March.

Attachments

- A. Incoming CEQA Documents Log
- B. Ongoing Active Projects for Which SCAQMD Has or Will Conduct a CEQA Review
- C. Active SCAQMD Lead Agency Projects

**ATTACHMENT A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
MARCH 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2015**

<u>SCAQMD LOG-IN NUMBER</u> PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Airports</i> LAC150320-01 6R-24L Runway Safety Area (RSA) Improvements Project	The proposed project includes relocating the end of Runway 6R approximately 200 feet to the east and displacing the threshold of Runway 6R approximately 500 feet. Comment Period: 3/19/2015 - 4/24/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration	Los Angeles World Airports	Under review, may submit written comments
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC150312-05 ENV-2014-3842/ 101 & 107 N. La Brea Ave; Wilshire	The proposed project consists of the construction, use & maintenance of a new single-story, 6,000-square-foot commercial building with 25 rooftop vehicle parking spaces, 12 alleyway adjacent surface parking spaces, and 39 bicycle parking spaces. Comment Period: 3/12/2015 - 4/1/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Los Angeles	Document screened - No further review conducted
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC150313-02 Cumulus Transit Oriented/Mixed-Use Project	The proposed project consists of demolishing an existing office building, accessory structures and four light industrial structures, two existing radio tower structures, and the development of an approximately 1,900,000-square-foot transit-oriented, mixed-use development. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2015/march/nopcumulus.pdf Comment Period: 3/13/2015 - 4/13/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Preparation	City of Los Angeles	SCAQMD staff commented 3/19/2015
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> ALL150311-07 Routine Program Change to California Coastal Management Programs; to Office for Coastal Management; for Changes to CCMP List of Federal Licenses and Permits Subject to Consistency Review	The proposed project consists of changes to the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP), in the form of a Routine Program Change (RPC), to the Office for Coastal Management. The RPC would update and add to the CCMP list of federal licenses and permits subject to certification for consistency with the CCMP, under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Comment Period: 3/11/2015 - 3/23/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of a Public Hearing	California Coastal Commission	Document reviewed - No comments sent

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project.

**ATTACHMENT A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
MARCH 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2015**

<u>SCAQMD LOG-IN NUMBER</u> PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> LAC150305-07 Western Gage Gateway Park	The proposed project consists of a cleanup plan to remove VOCs, specifically benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes (BTEX) and total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-g) in soil in the central area of the property at depths of 10 to 25 feet below ground surface. Comment Period: 3/5/2015 - 4/6/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Community Notice	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> LAC150310-05 Exide Technologies	As part of the Exide Technologies investigation, soil will be sampled at Parque De Los Suenos to confirm if lead levels are acceptable according to state standards. Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: 3/18/2015	Community Notice	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document screened - No further review conducted
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> LAC150313-05 Removal of Soil at 9901 S. Alameda Street	The proposed project consists of the removal of contaminated soil at the vacant lot at 9901 S. Alameda Street. The site has chemicals left over from manufacturing, trucking operations and waste storage. The Housing Authority will build homes, office buildings and shops on the property after it is cleaned up. Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: N/A	Community Notice	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> LAC150320-03 Elysian Park-Downtown Water Recycling Project	The proposed project consists of the Elysian Park Water Recycling Project and involves the delivery of recycled water to Elysian Park. A new 16-inch recycled water pipeline would be constructed beginning just southwest of the Los Angeles River along the Los Angeles River Bike Path, near the northern terminus of Dorris Place in the Elysian Valley neighborhood totaling approximately 10,800 linear feet. Comment Period: 3/20/2015 - 5/8/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Draft Environmental Impact Report	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Under review, may submit written comments
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> LAC150324-03 Palos Verdes Reservoir Upgrades Project	The proposed project consists of removing the upper portion of the outlet tower down to grade, replacing the valves and operating system, relining the reservoir with asphalt and a geomembrane liner, and replacing the geomembrane floating cover. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2015/april/mndpalosverdes.pdf Comment Period: 3/19/2015 - 4/20/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	SCAQMD staff commented 4/10/2015

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project.

**ATTACHMENT A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
MARCH 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2015**

<u>SCAQMD LOG-IN NUMBER</u> PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC150319-06 ENV-2014-3145/ 888 S Devon Ave; Westwood	The proposed project consists of constructing a seven-story, 32 unit multi-family building over three levels of subterranean parking with 87 parking spaces, on an approximately 14,371-square-foot lot. The new building will consist of approximately 43,440-square feet of floor area. Approximately 18,500 cubic yards of dirt will be exported from the site. Comment Period: 3/19/2015 - 4/8/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Los Angeles	Document reviewed - No comments sent
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC150320-02 8228 Sunset Boulevard Tall Wall Project	The proposed project consists of the installation of a tall wall sign (3,159 square feet) on the east side of the existing three-story building located on the project site. Comment Period: 3/19/2015 - 4/9/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of West Hollywood	Document screened - No further review conducted
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC150324-04 NorthLake Specific Plan	The proposed project consists of the NorthLake Specific Plan. The proposed project involves implementation of the previously approved NorthLake Specific Plan; specifically, the proposed project would involve development of up to 345 acres of residential uses (3,150 units), 4.4 acres of commercial uses (67,000 square feet), 17.5 acres of industrial uses (305,000 square feet), 880.3 acres of parks and open space (including manufactured slopes), and public facility uses if required including potential middle school, library, and fire department facilities that will support project residents. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2015/march/nopnorthlake.pdf Comment Period: 3/24/2015 - 4/22/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Preparation	County of Los Angeles	SCAQMD staff commented 3/31/2015
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC150327-02 6250 Sunset Project	The proposed project consists of developing the 6250 Sunset Project on an approximately 2.06-acre site. The project would retain the Earl Carroll Theatre Building and construct a new five-story, 90-foot tall, mixed-use building on the western portion of the site. The project includes approximately 4,700 square feet of ground floor commercial space, with 200 residential units. Comment Period: 3/26/2015 - 5/11/2015 Public Hearing: N/A	Draft Environmental Impact Report	City of Los Angeles	Document reviewed - No comments sent

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project.

**ATTACHMENT C
ACTIVE SCAQMD LEAD AGENCY PROJECTS
THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	STATUS	CONSULTANT
<p>The Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips) Los Angeles Refinery Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel project was originally proposed to comply with federal, state and SCAQMD requirements to limit the sulfur content of diesel fuels. Litigation against the CEQA document was filed. Ultimately, the California Supreme Court concluded that the SCAQMD had used an inappropriate baseline and directed the SCAQMD to prepare an EIR, even though the project has been built and has been in operation since 2006. The purpose of this CEQA document is to comply with the Supreme Court's direction to prepare an EIR.</p>	<p>Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips), Los Angeles Refinery</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>The Notice of Preparation/ Initial Study (NOP/IS) was circulated for a 30-day public comment period on March 26, 2012 to April 26, 2012. The consultant submitted the administrative Draft EIR to SCAQMD in late July 2013. The Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period from September 30, 2014 to November 13, 2014. Two comment letters were received and responses to comments are being prepared.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>
<p>Tesoro Refinery proposes to integrate the Tesoro Wilmington Operations with the Tesoro Carson Operations (former BP Refinery). The proposed project also includes modifications of storage tanks at both facilities, new interconnecting pipelines, and new electrical connections. In addition, Carson's Liquid Gas Rail Unloading facilities will be modified. The proposed project will be designed to comply with the federally mandated Tier 3 gasoline specifications and with State and local regulations mandating emission reductions.</p>	<p>Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company Los Angeles Refinery</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>A previous Draft Negative Declaration was withdrawn in order for the storage tank project to be analyzed in a new CEQA document that also addresses the Tesoro-BP Refinery Integration Project. A NOP/IS was prepared for the integration project and released for a 30-day public review and comment period from September 10, 2014 to October 10, 2014. 86 comment letters were received, and responses to comments are being prepared. The consultant is preparing a Draft EIR.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>
<p>Quemetco is proposing an increase in daily furnace feed rate.</p>	<p>Quemetco</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>An Initial Study has been prepared by the consultant and is under review by SCAQMD staff.</p>	<p>Trinity Consultants</p>
<p>Chevron is proposing modifications to its Product Reliability and Optimization (PRO) Project and has applied for a modification to its permit to increase the firing duty of its Tail Gas Unit to meet current BACT requirements.</p>	<p>Chevron</p>	<p>Addendum</p>	<p>An addendum to the 2008 Final EIR has been prepared by the consultant. Staff has reviewed the Addendum and provided edits to the consultant. Chevron is currently conducting a BACT review for equipment.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>

A shaded row indicates a new project.

**ATTACHMENT C
ACTIVE SCAQMD LEAD AGENCY PROJECTS
THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	STATUS	CONSULTANT
Breitburn Operating LP is proposing to upgrade their fluid handling systems to facilitate an increase in the amount of produced water that can be treated at the site in Sante Fe Springs.	Breitburn Operating LP	Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	The NOP/IS was released for a 30-day public review and comment period from December 4, 2014 to January 2, 2015. Two comment letters were received and responses are being prepared. A Draft EIR has been prepared and staff is currently reviewing.	Environ
DCor LLC is proposing to install three flares on their off-shore oil Platform Esther.	DCOR LLC	Mitigated Negative Declaration	A preliminary draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared by the consultant and is under review by SCAQMD staff.	RBF Consulting

A shaded row indicates a new project.