

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 1, 2019

AGENDA NO. 15

REPORT: Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received

SYNOPSIS: This report provides, for the Board's consideration, a listing of CEQA documents received by the South Coast AQMD between September 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019, and those projects for which the South Coast AQMD is acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source, October 18, 2019, Reviewed

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

PF:SN:JW:LS:JI

CEQA Document Receipt and Review Logs (Attachments A and B) – Each month, the South Coast AQMD receives numerous CEQA documents from other public agencies on projects that could adversely affect air quality. A listing of all documents received during the reporting period September 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 is included in Attachment A. A list of active projects from previous reporting periods for which South Coast AQMD staff is continuing to evaluate or has prepared comments is included in Attachment B. A total of 73 CEQA documents were received during this reporting period and 31 comment letters were sent.

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. As required by the Environmental Justice Program Enhancements for FY 2002-03, approved by the Board in October 2002, each attachment notes proposed projects where the South Coast AQMD has been contacted regarding potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The South Coast AQMD has established an internal central contact to receive information on projects with potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The public may

contact the South Coast AQMD about projects of concern by the following means: in writing via fax, email, or standard letters; through telephone communication; and as part of oral comments at South Coast AQMD meetings or other meetings where South Coast AQMD staff is present. The attachments also identify, for each project, the dates of the public comment period and the public hearing date, if applicable. 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; general land use projects, etc. In response to the mitigation component, guidance information on mitigation measures was 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 South Coast AQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>. Staff will continue compiling tables of mitigation measures for other emission sources.

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

During the period September 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, the South Coast AQMD received 73 CEQA documents. Attachment B lists documents that are ongoing active projects. Of the total of 102 documents listed in Attachments A and B:

- 31 comment letters were sent;
- 32 documents were reviewed, but no comments were made;
- 33 documents are currently under review;
- 0 document did not require comments (e.g., public notices);
- 0 documents were not reviewed; and
- 6 documents were screened without additional review.

(The above statistics are from September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019, and may 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 South Coast AQMD’s CEQA webpage at the following internet address:
<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/commenting-agency>.

South Coast AQMD Lead Agency Projects (Attachment C) – Pursuant to CEQA, the South Coast AQMD 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 for action is considered to be a “project” as defined by CEQA. For example, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared when the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, finds substantial evidence that the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment. Similarly, a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared if the South Coast AQMD determines that the 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 projects will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and, therefore, do not require the preparation of an EIR.

Attachments C to this report summarizes the active projects for which the South Coast AQMD is lead agency and is currently preparing or has prepared environmental documentation. As noted in Attachment C, the South Coast AQMD continued working on the CEQA documents for three active projects during August.

Attachments

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

**ATTACHMENT A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC190904-02 ENV-2019-490: 9631 North De Soto Avenue	The proposed project consists of demolition of a 1,300-square-foot existing structure and 33,200 square feet of recreational parks, and construction of a 74,228-square-foot industrial building on eight acres. The project is located on the northwest corner of North De Soto Avenue and Itasca Street in the community of Chatsworth-Porter Ranch. Comment Period: 9/5/2019 - 9/25/2019 Public Hearing: N/A	Negative Declaration	City of Los Angeles	Document reviewed - No comments sent
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC190904-04 Conditional Use Permit Case No. 19-000006 and 19-000007	This document includes environmental analysis to support a categorical exemption for the proposed project. The proposed project consists of demolition of an 11,234-square-foot existing structure and conversion of 13,986 square feet of existing warehouses to truck trailer storage yard uses on 3.5 acres. The project is located at 439 East Carlin Avenue near the northeast corner of East Carlin Avenue and North Alameda Street. Comment Period: 8/23/2019 - 9/18/2019 Public Hearing: N/A	Initial Study	City of Compton	Document reviewed - No comments sent
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC190906-03 300 Studebaker Road Industrial Park Project	The proposed project consists of demolition of 400 square feet of existing structures and construction of two industrial buildings totaling 139,200 square feet on 6.69 acres. This project will also include 1.81 acres of open space. The project is located near the southeast corner of Studebaker Road and Pacific Coast Highway. Comment Period: 9/6/2019 - 10/7/2019 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Long Beach	Document reviewed - No comments sent
<i>Industrial and Commercial</i> LAC190918-01 Irwindale Industrial Center Project	The proposed project consists of demolition of 33,420 square feet of existing buildings and construction of two industrial buildings totaling 233,984 square feet on 10.7 acres. The project is located at 5010 Azusa Canyon Road on the southeast corner of Azusa Canyon Road and Arrow Highway. Comment Period: 9/13/2019 - 10/14/2019 Public Hearing: 10/16/2019	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Irwindale	Document reviewed - No comments sent

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project. Documents received by the CEQA Intergovernmental Review program but not requiring review are not included in this report.

ATTACHMENT B
ONGOING ACTIVE PROJECTS FOR WHICH SOUTH COAST AQMD HAS
OR IS CONTINUING TO CONDUCT A CEQA REVIEW

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<p><i>Plans and Regulations</i></p> <p>LAC190814-03 Harbor LA Community Plans Update</p>	<p>The proposed project consists of development of land use policies, designations, zoning, and ordinances to guide future commercial, industrial, and residential development on 16.9 square miles. The project encompasses the communities of Harbor Gateway and Wilmington-Harbor City that are bounded by Interstate 105 to the north, Interstate 710 to the east, State Route 47 to the south, and City of Torrance to the west.</p> <p>http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2019/september/LAC190814-03.pdf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment Period: 8/15/2019 - 9/16/2019 Public Hearing: 8/22/2019</p>	Notice of Preparation	City of Los Angeles	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 9/13/2019
<p><i>Plans and Regulations</i></p> <p>LAC190815-02 Port Master Plan Update</p>	<p>The proposed project consists of establishment of development policies, guidelines, and amendments to existing land uses. The project encompasses the Port of Long Beach that is located on the southwest corner of the West Anaheim Street and De Forest Avenue. Reference LAC180809-06</p> <p>http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2019/october/LAC190815-02.pdf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment Period: 8/15/2019 - 10/3/2019 Public Hearing: 9/4/2019</p>	Draft Program Environmental Impact Report	City of Long Beach Harbor Department	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 10/3/2019
<p><i>Plans and Regulations</i></p> <p>RVC190807-02 City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan Update</p>	<p>The proposed project consists of updates to the City's General Plan to guide future development with a planning horizon of 2040. The project encompasses 59.3 square miles and is bounded by San Bernardino County to the north, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve to the east, Interstate 10 to the south, and the community of Bonnie Bell to the west in Riverside County.</p> <p>http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2019/september/RVC190807-02.pdf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment Period: 8/5/2019 - 9/5/2019 Public Hearing: 8/13/2019</p>	Notice of Preparation	City of Desert Hot Springs	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 9/3/2019

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

ATTACHMENT C
ACTIVE SOUTH COAST AQMD LEAD AGENCY PROJECTS
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

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 South Coast AQMD requirements to limit the sulfur content of diesel fuels. Litigation regarding the CEQA document was filed. Ultimately, the California Supreme Court concluded that the South Coast AQMD had used an inappropriate baseline and directed the South Coast AQMD 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 South Coast AQMD 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 the consultant has prepared responses to comments. South Coast AQMD staff has reviewed the responses to comments and provided edits.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>
<p>Quemetco is proposing to modify existing South Coast AQMD permits to allow the facility to recycle more batteries and to eliminate the existing daily idle time of the furnaces. The proposed project will increase the rotary feed drying furnace feed rate limit from 600 to 750 tons per day and increase the amount of total coke material allowed to be processed. In addition, the project will allow the use of petroleum coke in lieu of or in addition to calcined coke, and remove one existing emergency diesel-fueled internal combustion engine (ICE) and install two new emergency natural gas-fueled ICEs.</p>	<p>Quemetco</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>A Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) was released for a 56-day public review and comment period from August 31, 2018 to October 25, 2018, and 154 comment letters were received. Two CEQA scoping meetings were held on September 13, 2018 and October 11, 2018 in the community. South Coast AQMD staff is reviewing the comments received.</p>	<p>Trinity Consultants</p>
<p>Tesoro is proposing to revise the project originally analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the May 2017 Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project (LARIC) to adjust the construction schedule and to modify its Title V permit to: 1) relocate the propane recovery component of the original project from the Carson Operations Naphtha Isomerization Unit to the Carson Operations C3 Splitter Unit; 2) increase the throughput of the Carson Operations Tank 35; and, 3) update the toxic air contaminant speciation for the six crude oil storage tanks at the Carson crude terminal with additional data.</p>	<p>Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company, LLC (Tesoro)</p>	<p>Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the May 2017 Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project (LARIC)</p>	<p>The consultant provided a Revised Draft Addendum, which is undergoing South Coast AQMD staff review.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>