

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 2, 2021

AGENDA NO. 13

REPORT: Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received

SYNOPSIS: This report provides a listing of CEQA documents received by the South Coast AQMD between February 1, 2021 and February 28, 2021, and those projects for which the South Coast AQMD is acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source, March 19, 2021, Reviewed

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

SR:SN:JW:LS:MC

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 February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 is included in Attachment A. A list of active projects for which South Coast AQMD staff is continuing to evaluate or prepare comments for the December reporting period is included as Attachment B. A total of 54 CEQA documents were received during this reporting period and 15 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 of February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021, the South Coast AQMD received 54 CEQA documents. Of the 67 documents listed in Attachments A and B:

- 15 comment letters were sent;
- 17 documents were reviewed, but no comments were made;
- 30 documents are currently under review;
- 0 documents did not require comments (e.g., public notices);
- 0 documents were not reviewed; and
- 5 documents were screened without additional review.

(The above statistics are from February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 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.

Attachment 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 February.

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
February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
Warehouse & Distribution Centers LAC210217-02 5175 Vincent Avenue Project	The project consists of construction of a 545,735-square-foot warehouse on 26.05 acres. The project is located on the southwest corner of Arrow Highway and Vincent Avenue. Reference LAC200304-08 and LAC190104-01 Comment Period: 2/17/2021 - 4/2/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report	City of Irwindale	Under review, may submit written comments
Warehouse & Distribution Centers LAC210217-03 2555 West 190th Street Industrial Warehouse Project	The project consists of demolition of a 160,000-square-foot office building and construction of a 305,550-square-foot warehouse on 13.29 acres. The project is located near the northeast corner of West 190th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. Comment Period: 2/12/2021 - 3/15/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Torrance	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Warehouse & Distribution Centers RVC210204-02 Sunset Crossroads Specific Plan	The project consists of construction of 5.5 million square feet of warehouses, 295,000 square feet of commercial uses, and 68.7 acres of open space on 532.7 acres. The project is located on the southwest corner of Interstate 10 and Sunset Avenue. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2021/march/RVC210204-02.pdf Comment Period: 2/2/2021 - 3/3/2021 Public Hearing: 2/18/2021	Notice of Preparation	City of Banning	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 3/2/2021
Warehouse & Distribution Centers RVC210204-04 Potrero Logistics	The project consists of construction of a 577,920-square-foot warehouse on 32.02 acres. The project is located on the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Potrero Boulevard. Reference RVC201028-01 and RVC200603-01 Comment Period: 2/2/2021 - 2/25/2021 Public Hearing: 2/25/2021	Site Plan	City of Beaumont	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

*Sorted by Land Use Type (in order of land uses most commonly associated with air quality impacts), followed by County, then date received.

- 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 A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> ORC210209-07 Placentia (Van Buren and Orangethorpe)	The project consists of development of cleanup activities to excavate, treat, and dispose soil contaminated with lead and total petroleum hydrocarbons on 5.56 acres. The project is located near the southwest corner of South Van Buren Street and East Orangethorpe Avenue in the City of Placentia. Comment Period: 2/11/2021 - 3/12/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Draft Removal Action Workplan	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> ORC210218-06 Lake Forest Zone B to C Pump Station Project	The project consists of demolition of an existing water pump station, and construction of a 1,791-square-foot water pump station with a capacity of 2,250 gallons per minute and a water management inertie system on 0.41 acres. The project is located near the southwest corner of Portola Parkway and Rancho Parkway in the City of Lake Forest. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2021/march/ORC210218-06.pdf Comment Period: 2/18/2021 - 3/19/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	Irvine Ranch Water District	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 3/16/2021
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> ORC210218-07 Ranch Water Filtration Plant Project	The project consists of construction of a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity from 1,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 5,000 AFY and 4,000 linear feet of wastewater pipelines 24 inches in diameter. The project is located near the northwest corner of Chiquita Canyon Drive and Esencia Drive in the community of Rancho Mission Viejo within Orange County. Comment Period: 2/16/2021 - 3/17/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	Santa Margarita Water District	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> ORC210224-01 Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration and Water Conservation Study	Staff provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which can be accessed at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2019/march/ORC190212-04.pdf . The project consists of development of strategies for flood risk management, water conservation, and ecosystem restoration on 2,225 square miles. The project is bounded by cities of Chino and Eastvale to the north, City of Norco to the east, State Route (SR) 91 to the south, and SR 71 to the west, and encompasses Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Reference ORC190212-04 Comment Period: 2/18/2021 - 3/18/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

- 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 A
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> RVC210218-08 Purified Water Replenishment Project	The project consists of construction of a water treatment facility with a capacity of 9.5 million gallons per day, a 20,800-square-foot building, a 1,632-square-foot water blending station, a 14,200-linear-foot water pipeline ranging from 16 inches to 36 inches in diameter, and five brine evaporation ponds totaling 20 acres. The project is generally located along North Ramona Boulevard between Sanderson Avenue and East Washington Avenue in the community of San Jacinto. Comment Period: 2/17/2021 - 4/2/2021 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report	Eastern Municipal Water District	Under review, may submit written comments
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> SBC210205-01 Patton State Hospital Waterline Replacement Project	The project consists of construction of 1,730 linear feet of stormwater pipelines 14 inches in diameter. The project is located at 3102 East Highland Avenue near the northwest corner of East Highland Avenue and North Orange Street in the community of Patton within San Bernardino County. http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2021/february/SBC210205-01.pdf Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: N/A	Site Plan	California Department of State Hospitals	South Coast AQMD staff commented on 2/9/2021
<i>Utilities</i> ORC210202-01 Bay Bridge Pump Station and Force Mains Replacement Project	Staff provided comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project, which can be accessed at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/comment-letters/2020/September/ORC200811-03.pdf . The project consists of demolition of an existing pump station, and construction of a 14,500-square-foot pump station and 1,500 linear feet of force mains 32 inches in diameter. The project is located on the northwest corner of North Bayside Drive and East Coast Highway in the City of Newport Beach. Reference ORC200811-03, ORC190703-02, ORC170621-05, ORC170224-04, and ORC161110-08 Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: 2/24/2021	Final Environmental Impact Report	Orange County Sanitation District	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Utilities</i> RVC210224-03 Terra-Gen Beaumont Energy Storage Project	The project consists of construction of a 100-megawatt lithium-ion battery energy storage facility on 6.9 acres. The project is located at 248 Veile Avenue near the southeast corner of West Fourth Street and Veile Avenue. Reference RVC201202-01 Comment Period: 2/24/2021 - 3/11/2021 Public Hearing: 3/11/2021	Site Plan	City of Beaumont	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

- 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 C
ACTIVE SOUTH COAST AQMD LEAD AGENCY PROJECTS
THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	STATUS	CONSULTANT
<p>Matrix Oil is proposing to: 1) install one new flare with a maximum rating of 39 million British thermal units per hour (MMBtu/hr) at Site 3 of the Sansinena Oil Field; and 2) increase the throughput of the existing flare at Site 9 from the previous permit limit of 13.65 million standard cubic feet over a 30-day period (MMSCF/30 days) to the maximum rating of 39 MMBtu/hr which is equivalent to 25.39 MMSCF/30 days.</p>	Matrix Oil	Mitigated Negative Declaration	The consultant provided a preliminary draft Mitigated Negative Declaration which is undergoing South Coast AQMD staff review.	Yorke Engineering
<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>	Quemetco	Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	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 preliminary Draft EIR and has provided comments to the consultant.	Trinity Consultants
<p>Sunshine Canyon Landfill is proposing to modify its South Coast AQMD permits for its active landfill gas collection and control system to accommodate the increased collection of landfill gas. The proposed project will: 1) install two new low emissions flares with two additional 300-hp electric blowers; and 2) increase the landfill gas flow limit of the existing flares.</p>	Sunshine Canyon Landfill	Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)	South Coast AQMD staff reviewed and provided comments on the preliminary air quality analysis and health risk assessment (HRA), which are being addressed by the consultant.	SCS Engineers