



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY

April 7, 2017

SCAQMD Governing Board Chairman William Burke, Ed.D. to Chair Second Hearing on Torrance Refining Co.

WHAT:

As a follow-up to the recent town hall meeting held at the Torrance Marriot Redondo Beach, a second hearing will be conducted to provide more time for public testimony. Only those who **signed public comment** cards at the first town hall be allowed to address the committee.

Due to repeated breakdowns and associated flaring, a recent fire and other operational problems, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Governing Board Refinery Committee will conduct an investigative hearing on air quality impacts from the Torrance refinery.

WHEN:

9 a.m., Saturday, April 8

WHERE:

Torrance City Council Chambers
Torrance City Hall
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

WHO:

- SCAQMD Chairman Burke and Board members Clark E. Parker, Sr. and Joseph K. Lyou

BACKGROUND:

Since July 2016, when PBF took over operation of the former ExxonMobil refinery at 3700 W. 190th St. in Torrance, the facility has experienced numerous breakdowns and associated flaring, including three incidents that resulted from a loss of power. On Oct. 11, 2016, the refinery lost all power in the early morning and flared thick black smoke for more than four hours. The City of Torrance issued a temporary shelter-in-place order. SCAQMD received 67 complaints from residents and issued a Notice of Violation to the refinery for causing a public nuisance. On Feb. 18, the facility experienced a fire in a crude oil unit.

SCAQMD has issued numerous violations to PBF including two for causing a public nuisance.

On Feb. 16, PBF agreed to an administrative order by the SCAQMD Hearing Board requiring the facility to improve power reliability and reduce air pollution from power-related flaring incidents. While the refinery must meet specific milestones and deadlines under the order, the overall effort will take several years to complete.

In February 2015, under ExxonMobil ownership, a large explosion in an air pollution control device ejected heavy metal parts, narrowly missing a unit that contains highly toxic hydrofluoric acid.

-#-