



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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

NEWS

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2017

SCAQMD Certifies Final EIR for Tesoro Refinery Integration Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District today certified the final environmental impact report (EIR) for a major project to fully integrate Tesoro's refinery facilities in Wilmington and Carson.

The project involves the permanent shut down of an old, highly emitting piece of equipment at the Wilmington facility known as a fluid catalytic cracking unit or FCCU. It also includes the construction of larger storage tanks, which will reduce ship emissions by allowing faster off-loading of crude oil into the tanks.

"After extensive review and consideration of the document and comments received, I have certified the EIR, recognizing the overall reduction in air pollution and reduced impacts to the neighboring community," said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD's executive officer.

Certification of the Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance (LARIC) Project's Final EIR follows more than three years of analysis by SCAQMD staff that included extensive public participation. It signifies the agency's completion and approval of the EIR and is a major milestone toward the project's initiation.

The comment period for the EIR was extended twice and was open for a total of 94 days, ending on June 10, 2016.

The 7,000-plus page Final EIR analyzes in detail the predicted maximum environmental impacts of the project. Much of the document is devoted to SCAQMD's responses to more than 130 written comments received from members of the public, public agencies and others.

Although the project will result in an increase in volatile organic compound emissions, it will not have a significant impact on air quality, according to the EIR. In addition, the project will not cause a significant increase in cancer or non-cancer risks to the surrounding community.

Construction of the project will cause significant but temporary emission increases and the EIR requires mitigation of these impacts by requiring use of trucks and construction equipment meeting the cleanest emission standards, and other measures.

In June 2013, Tesoro purchased the adjacent BP West Coast Products LLC Carson Refinery. The primary purpose of the LARIC project is to fully integrate the Tesoro refinery at 2101 E. Pacific Coast Hwy. in Wilmington with the former BP refinery at 2350 E. 223rd St. in Carson. Pipelines will be installed to physically connect the two facilities to increase refinery operational efficiencies.

Now that the SCAQMD's executive officer has certified the Final EIR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will review the modifications to the facility's Title V permits prior to the SCAQMD issuing the permits to Tesoro. Title V operating permits are required by the federal Clean Air Act for major sources of air pollution.

###

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.