



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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NEWS

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SCAQMD Issues Initial Permits for Tesoro Refineries

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued 18 permits to facilitate the continued integration of Tesoro's refinery facilities in Wilmington and Carson.

"I have approved these permits following extensive review of them by our staff and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD's executive officer. "This project will achieve an overall reduction in air pollution and will reduce impacts to the neighboring community."

In a June 20 letter, U.S. EPA officials told SCAQMD that they had completed their review of the draft permits and found them eligible to be issued.

On May 12, Nastri certified SCAQMD's Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tesoro refinery, formally known as the Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance (LARIC) Project. The 7,000-plus page Final EIR found that the project will reduce overall emissions, partially due to 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.

Permits approved late Thursday will allow the refinery to comply with federal Tier 3 gasoline specifications, install new heat exchangers to increase efficiency and reduce air pollution and install interconnecting pipelines between its Wilmington and Carson facilities.

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.

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

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