



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 20, 2022

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kim White, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

press@aqmd.gov

Violation Issued to Animal Rendering Plant in Vernon, Calif., for Odors Impacting Surrounding Community

DIAMOND BAR—The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) today issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Baker Commodities, Inc. (Baker), for failure to process materials in a timely manner, causing odors that impacted the public.

On January 7th, South Coast AQMD inspectors were conducting an odor investigation near the rendering plants in the City of Vernon when a large, uncovered pile of raw animal materials was observed at Baker, outside of the plant's backup cooker. Four hours later, a portion of the pile remained unprocessed, which is a violation of the agency's Rule 415—*Odors from Rendering Facilities*. The investigation also discovered that the plant's main cooker had been broken for a few days, resuming only earlier that day.

South Coast AQMD Rule 415 requires facilities that conduct rendering of animals and animal parts to reduce odors from their operations, which includes cooking or properly storing raw materials within four hours of receipt. Rule 415 also requires permanent total enclosures and other control strategies to reduce odors in the communities located near these facilities.

The facility, located at 4020 Bandini Blvd., in Vernon, Calif., converts animal by-products collected from meat and poultry processing plants, supermarkets, and butcher shops into materials that can be used as animal feed or other uses.

Baker received additional NOVs for not processing material within four hours in June 2021 and September 2021. South Coast AQMD will continue to conduct odor surveillance near all rendering plants and respond to public complaints.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, the company can choose to implement voluntary measures to reduce emissions or otherwise prevent further violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

More information on South Coast AQMD's ongoing activities related rendering plants in the City of Vernon can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-investigations/rendering-plants>

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

#