



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Requests Order to Force Rendering Facility in Vernon to Complete A Building Enclosure and Reduce Odors

DIAMOND BAR – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) filed a petition for an administrative order that would require Baker Commodities Inc. (“Baker”), an animal rendering facility in Vernon, to comply with air quality rules and permit conditions. The petition follows multiple violations of a rule that was designed to reduce odors. Since January 2021, South Coast AQMD has responded to more than 100 odor complaints attributed primarily to operations at Baker.

The facility, located at 4020 Bandini Blvd., in Vernon, Calif., converts animal material collected from meat processing plants, supermarkets, and butcher shops into animal feed or other useful products.

“After multiple inspections and violations, Baker has yet to take required steps to comply with our rules including properly enclosing operations,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s executive officer. “Nearby communities have long been impacted by the intense odors from rendering facilities. We hope our action is the catalyst for bringing Baker into compliance and providing relief to the community.”

The petition alleges that Baker has committed multiple violations by failing to keep its facility clean and in good operating condition and not enclosing portions of its facility including a butcher trimmings receiving area and certain wastewater operations including an open-air pit and its grease processing unit. Additionally, the facility did not properly seal or close other processing areas to minimize leaks and prevent odors from escaping.

Enclosures must be completed within certain deadlines after construction permits are approved. Baker failed to do so by its March 9, 2022 and April 22, 2022 deadlines.

South Coast AQMD filed its petition for the administrative order, known as an Order for Abatement, with the independent South Coast AQMD Hearing Board. A hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The petition is posted on the South Coast AQMD’s website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/rendering/baker-petition-for-oa.pdf>.

South Coast AQMD continues to conduct odor surveillance near all rendering plants and respond to public complaints. The public can file an odor complaint by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG, on our [webpage](#), or directly from our [smartphone app](#).

More information on South Coast AQMD's ongoing activities related to 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, 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](#).

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