

General Concerns about Industrial Facilities, including Waste Transfer Stations

Background

The CSC members for the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community expressed concerns regarding the large number of industrial facilities and the cumulative impact of all these facilities on the community. The CSC members also expressed concern about odors from industrial facilities, including waste management transfer stations.

These facilities typically require permits from South Coast AQMD as well as other agencies, such as Department of Toxic Substances Control, CalRecycle, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. While some of the concerns identified by the CSC are outside the regulatory authority of South Coast AQMD, concerns about fugitive dust and odors from these facilities can be addressed through South Coast AQMD regulations.

Community Air Quality Priorities –Improved Access to Facility Information, Cumulative Impacts, Odors, and Fugitive Dust Emissions

The East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce CSC identified areas within the community where there are concentrations of industrial facilities, and emphasized the importance of being able to find credible information about these facilities. Specifically, the community would like to be able to search and filter the South Coast AQMD facility database by the type of facility, rather than just by name or a specific location. This feature would allow the community to better understand the specific types of facilities in their area, and obtain emissions information about those facilities. This type of information may be useful to inform land use decisions and facility permitting requirements, if local city ordinances and policies allow for such additional requirements.

The CSC also identified concerns about odors in the community, and the lack of community awareness about how to make air quality complaints. CSC members noted that many people in this community do not use the internet or smart phones. The CSC identified the Republic Services East Los Angeles Transfer Station as a particular odor concern, especially because it is located near homes. Other waste transfer stations, such as the Waste Management Los Angeles Transfer Station and the Republic Services Innovative Waste Control Transfer Station, are also located in the community. In addition to odors, these types of facilities can also release fugitive dust, which could impact neighboring residents.

Ongoing Efforts

South Coast AQMD Facility Information Detail (FIND)

South Coast AQMD has a web application where users can search for permitted facilities by name and location. The FIND tool provides detailed information for each facility, including equipment

lists, facility air pollution emissions information on key enforcement actions (Notices of Violation, Notices to Comply, Hearing Board cases), and other documents. The information in FIND is updated daily.¹

In 2019, South Coast AQMD added an improved interactive map to the FIND tool (Figure 5-1), so that users can use a map to locate facilities and link to information about those facilities. Users can also search for addresses and place names, and the tool will show a list of active facilities close to that address (Figure 5-2). Users can also click a link to access more detailed information about the facility.² Additional enhancements to the FIND tool will soon provide detailed information about the status of new permit applications submitted to South Coast AQMD.

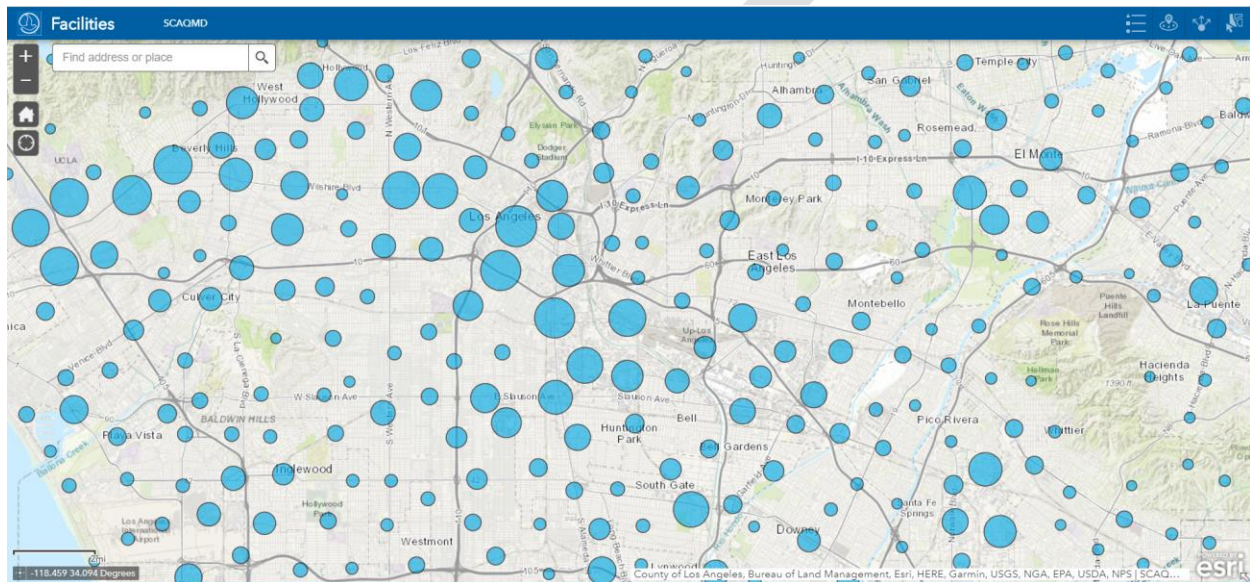


Figure 5-1. South Coast AQMD FIND interactive map showing location of active facilities. A larger blue dot represents a larger number of facilities in that area.

¹ FIND can be accessed by going to <http://www.aqmd.gov/> and clicking the “FIND” menu at the top of the page, or by following this link: <https://xappprod.aqmd.gov/find>.

² The interactive facility map can be accessed by going to <http://www.aqmd.gov/> and selecting “GIS Open Data” under the “Online Services” menu at the top of the page, or by following this link: <https://arcg.is/1Drmjn>.

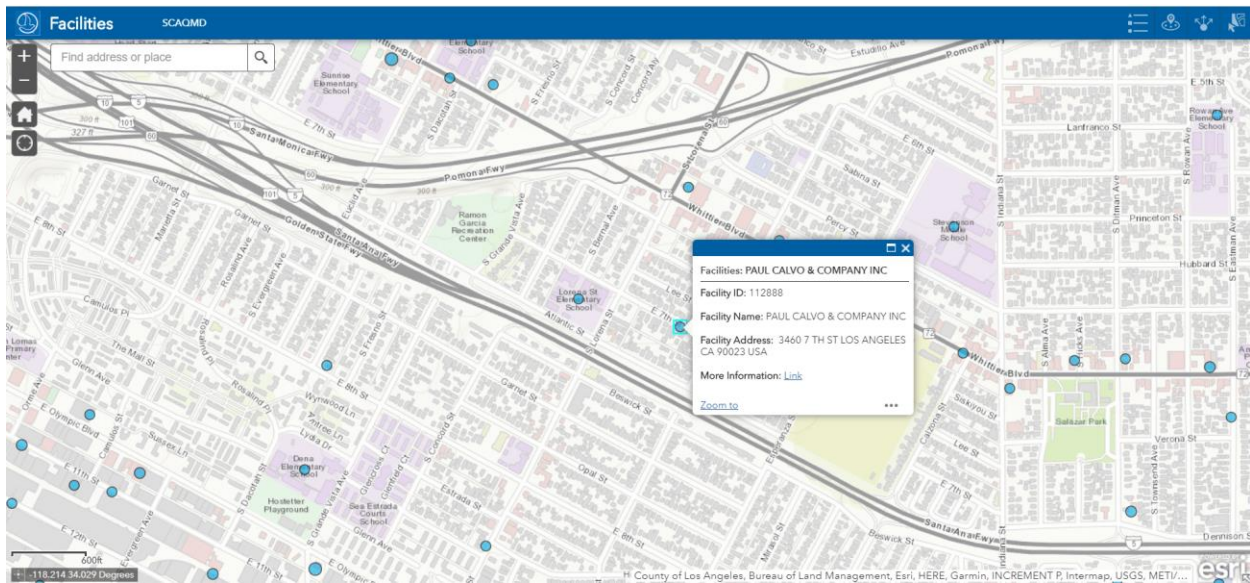


Figure 5-2. South Coast AQMD FIND interactive map showing pop-up information about a specific facility. Users can click on a link to access more detailed information about the facility.

*Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning Green Zones Program*³

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning launched the Green Zones Program in 2015, focusing efforts on disproportionate environmental and health impacts in disadvantaged communities. The Green Zones Program focuses on land use policies, zoning regulations, collaboration with various regulatory agencies, and supporting businesses' to become better neighbors in order to help minimize exposure to toxic pollutants in neighborhoods.⁴

Several existing South Coast AQMD rules address odors, fugitive dust, and other emissions from facilities, including waste transfer stations.

Rule 402 – Nuisance⁵ was adopted in 1976, and requires that a person shall not discharge air contaminants that cause injury, detriment, a nuisance, or annoyance to the public.

Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust⁶ was amended by South Coast AQMD in 2005 to reduce the amount of particulate matter that may be emitted into the air as a result of man-made dust sources. The rule requires actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions.

³ The Los Angeles County Green Zones Program applies to the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in this community.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Green Zones Program, <http://planning.lacounty.gov/greenzones>, Accessed June 19, 2019.

⁵ For more information on Rule 402: <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-402.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

⁶ For more information on Rule 403: <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-403.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

Rule 410 – Odors from Transfer Stations and Material Recovery Systems⁷ was adopted by the South Coast AQMD in 2006 to reduce odors from certain municipal solid waste transfer stations and material recovery facilities. The rule requires best odor management practices and requirements.

Rule 1157 – PM 10 Emissions Reduction from Aggregate and related operations was amended in 2006 to reduce PM 10 emissions from operations that produce sand, gravel, crushed stone, and/or quarried rocks.

Opportunities for Action

South Coast AQMD is seeking to collaborate more closely with land use agencies to identify additional opportunities to reduce fugitive dust and minimize odors. The actions below have been identified by the CSC as strategies that address air quality concerns about industrial facilities more generally in this community, including improving access to facility emissions information, ensuring that facilities have correct permits and working with land use agencies to develop enhanced permit requirements, improving public awareness of how to file air quality complaints, and addressing odors and fugitive dust from waste transfer stations, which could serve as models for other similar facilities.

| Action 1: Improve Public Outreach and Accessibility to Facility Information | |
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| Course of Action(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather community input on features and enhancements that would be useful to include in the South Coast AQMD Facility INformation Detail (FIND) web tool. Examples of enhancements could include adding the ability to search by facility type, and whether a facility is in certain regulatory programs (e.g., AB 2588). • Make improvements to the FIND tool to address the community’s highest priority requests • Conduct community training on how to use the improved FIND tool, when available | |
| Strategies: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Information and Outreach • Collaboration | |
| Goal(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct [<i>insert number of outreach events</i>] in this community to gather feedback on enhancements to the FIND tool • Demonstrate revised FIND database at [<i>insert number of outreach events</i>] to provide training and increase awareness of FIND as a public information tool | |
| Estimated Timeline: | |

⁷ For more information on Rule 410: <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-410.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second half of 2020 to first half of 2021, conduct community outreach to gather input on the FIND tool • 2021, implement updates to FIND tool • 2022, conduct community training on improved FIND tool | |
| Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity: | |
| Name: | Responsibility: |
| South Coast AQMD | Gather public feedback, make priority improvements to FIND tool, and conduct community training on how to use the FIND tool |
| References: | |
| For FIND web tool: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b6c6c754c96648fea71b0cbcb0fca48d | |
| For CARB Technology Clearinghouse effort: https://www.arb.ca.gov/techclearinghouse/ | |

Action 2: Improve Public Awareness about How to File an Air Quality Complaint

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| Course of Action(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local community centers and organizations to provide outreach and training on how to file air quality complaints by phone, web, or mobile app. This outreach would include information about what complaints are handled by South Coast AQMD and CARB. See also Action 4 below. • Seek opportunities for funding toward increased advertising for South Coast AQMD's 1-800-CUT-SMOG complaint line | |
| Strategies: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Information and Outreach | |
| Goal(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify community partners (e.g., community centers, organizations, etc.) to assist with outreach • Conduct [<i>insert number of outreach events</i>] in this community to provide information and training on how to file air quality complaints by phone, web, or mobile app. See also Action 4 below. • If funding is obtained, conduct targeted advertising in this community for the 1-800-CUT-SMOG complaint line | |
| Estimated Timeline: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-2022, conduct outreach at a variety of venues • 2020-2022, seek funding opportunities for advertising 1-800-CUT-SMOG | |
| Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity: | |
| Name: | Responsibility: |

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| South Coast AQMD | Work with community partners to conduct outreach, and seek funding for advertising complaint line |
| References: | |
| How to file air quality complaint: https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints | |
| South Coast AQMD mobile app: https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/online-services/smartphone | |

Action 3: Work with Land Use Agencies to Verify Facility Permits and Develop Enhanced Permit Requirements

Course of Action(s):

- Collaborate with city and county planning departments to conduct annual permit cross-checks for facilities in this community for 5 years, to ensure that any facility with a conditional use permit also has an air district permit, where required. Work with city and county planning departments to develop a list of relevant facility types that would be included in the permit cross-check efforts.
- Conduct Small Business Assistance outreach to identified facilities to provide information about permit applications. Follow up with compliance inspection and enforcement action where needed.
- Conduct enforcement actions where appropriate.
- Consult with land use agencies to develop guidelines (e.g., design guidelines) that could reduce air pollution impacts from facilities prioritized by this community.
- Work with local planning agencies to develop a process for identifying new or renewal permit applications that may warrant South Coast AQMD review for potential air quality impacts.

Strategies:

- Public Information and Outreach
- Enforcement
- Collaboration

Goal(s):

- For every facility identified that requires a permit but does not yet have one, work with the facility to obtain appropriate South Coast AQMD permits
- Publish guidelines for land use agencies on building and property features that could reduce air pollution impacts from common facility types in this community
- If the Green Zones ordinance is adopted, develop a system to provide technical consultation pertaining to reducing facility air pollution emissions to LA County Planning on permit applications and renewals⁸

Estimated Timeline:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First half of 2020, develop a list of relevant facility types for permit cross-check, and a list of common facility types for guideline development. • Second half of 2020, begin conducting annual permit cross-checks with land use agencies • 2020-2021, develop guidelines for building and property features for the list of common facility types • 2021, if Green Zones ordinance is adopted, develop criteria and implement the system to provide technical consultation on permit applications or renewals that meet the criteria¹⁰ | |
| Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity: | |
| Name: | Responsibility: |
| South Coast AQMD | Work with appropriate land use authorities to provide guidance to ensure that land uses with potentially negative air quality impacts are informed of relevant South Coast AQMD rules, and assist in outreach for land use developments that involve public process and engagement |
| Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning [<i>and other collaborating agencies</i>] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with South Coast AQMD to develop a list of relevant facilities and conduct permit cross-checks • Work with South Coast AQMD to develop a Green Zones⁴ ordinance to help further reduce air pollution impacts from facilities through enhanced building and property features and other permit requirements |
| References: | |
| South Coast AQMD, Small Business Assistance, http://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/business-detail?title=small-business-assistance Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Green Zones Program, http://planning.lacounty.gov/greenzones | |

Action 4: Reduce Odors and Dust from Waste Transfer Stations

Course of Action(s):

- Provide public outreach information for the community on how to file odor complaints, and what rules apply to waste transfer stations (Rules 402, 403, and 410). See also Action 2 above.
- Conduct a training course for transfer station facility operators on best management practices and rules that address odors and fugitive dust
- Conduct unannounced inspections at waste transfer stations in the community
- Respond to odor complaints, conduct appropriate follow-up investigations and enforcement activities, where appropriate, and provide periodic updates to CSC

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct initial screening using air measurement equipment to help identify potential facilities that may be responsible for fugitive dust emissions and odor emissions | |
| Strategies: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Information and Outreach • Enforcement • Air Monitoring | |
| Goal(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host one training course in the community and invite operators of each of the transfer stations; additional training courses can be organized if necessary • Conduct [<i>insert number of outreach events</i>] in this community to provide information and training on how to file air quality complaints by phone, web, or mobile app. Outreach will include information about rules that apply to waste transfer stations. See also Action 2 above. • Provide the CSC quarterly or biannual updates on outreach, enforcement, and monitoring activities • Conduct initial screening using air measurement equipment to identify potential facilities that may be responsible for fugitive dust emissions and odor emissions. If persistent elevated levels are found and traced to a facility, notify facility operator and conduct additional follow-up monitoring to track progress with reducing emissions. | |
| Estimated Timeline: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second half of 2019, conduct initial mobile monitoring measurements to evaluate air quality in the community and identify, if any, facilities that may be emitting high levels of pollutants • First half of 2020, conduct a training course in the community for transfer station operators • First half of 2020, begin stationary air monitoring near some of the high priority facilities, if any, and review results for next steps • Mid-2020, begin quarterly or biannual updates to the CSC • 2020-2022, conduct [<i>fill in number and frequency</i>] outreach at a variety of venues within this community • Ongoing, respond to odor complaints, and conduct unannounced inspections | |
| Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity: | |
| Name: | Responsibility: |
| South Coast AQMD | Conduct community outreach, conduct facility training, conduct initial air measurements, and inspect facilities and conduct enforcement action where appropriate. Provide periodic updates to CSC |
| References: | |
| For more information on Rule 402 (Nuisance): https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-402.pdf?sfvrsn=4 | |

Industrial Facilities, Including Waste Transfer Stations 5-8

East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce

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For more information on Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust): <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-403.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

For more information on Rule 410 (Odors from Transfer Stations and Material Recovery Systems): <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-410.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

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