

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 1, 2020

AGENDA NO. 12

REPORT: Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received

SYNOPSIS: This report provides a listing of CEQA documents received by the South Coast AQMD between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, and those projects for which the South Coast AQMD is acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source, April 17, 2020, Reviewed

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

PF:SN:JW:LS:AM/MI

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**CEQA Document Receipt and Review Logs (Attachments A and B)** – Each month, the South Coast AQMD receives numerous CEQA documents from other public agencies on projects that could adversely affect air quality. A listing of all documents received during the reporting period March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 is included in Attachment A. A list of active projects from previous reporting periods for which South Coast AQMD staff is continuing to evaluate or has prepared comments is included in Attachment B. A total of 61 CEQA documents were received during this reporting period and 25 comment letters were sent.

The Intergovernmental Review function, which consists of reviewing and commenting on the adequacy of the air quality analysis in CEQA documents prepared by other lead agencies, is consistent with the Board's 1997 Environmental Justice Guiding Principles and Environmental Justice Initiative #4. As required by the Environmental Justice Program Enhancements for FY 2002-03, approved by the Board in October 2002, each attachment notes proposed projects where the South Coast AQMD has been contacted

regarding potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The South Coast AQMD has established an internal central contact to receive information on projects with potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The public may contact the South Coast AQMD about projects of concern by the following means: in writing via fax, email, or standard letters; through telephone communication; and as part of oral comments at South Coast AQMD meetings or other meetings where South Coast AQMD staff is present. The attachments also identify, for each project, the dates of the public comment period and the public hearing date, if applicable. Interested parties should rely on the lead agencies themselves for definitive information regarding public comment periods and hearings as these dates are occasionally modified by the lead agency.

At the January 6, 2006 Board meeting, the Board approved the Workplan for the Chairman's Clean Port Initiatives. One action item of the Chairman's Initiatives was to prepare a monthly report describing CEQA documents for projects related to goods movement and to make full use of the process to ensure the air quality impacts of such projects are thoroughly mitigated. In response to describing goods movement, CEQA documents (Attachments A and B) are organized to group projects of interest into the following categories: goods movement projects; schools; landfills and wastewater projects; airports; general land use projects, etc. In response to the mitigation component, guidance information on mitigation measures was compiled into a series of tables relative to: off-road engines; on-road engines; harbor craft; ocean-going vessels; locomotives; fugitive dust; and greenhouse gases. These mitigation measure tables are on the CEQA webpages portion of the South Coast AQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>. Staff will continue compiling tables of mitigation measures for other emission sources.

Staff focuses on reviewing and preparing comments for projects: where the South Coast AQMD is a responsible agency; that may have significant adverse regional air quality impacts (e.g. special event centers, landfills, goods movement); that may have localized or toxic air quality impacts (e.g. warehouse and distribution centers); where environmental justice concerns have been raised; and which a lead or responsible agency has specifically requested South Coast AQMD review. If staff provided written comments to the lead agency as noted in the column "Comment Status," there is a link to the "South Coast AQMD Letter" under the Project Description. In addition, if staff testified at a hearing for the proposed project, a notation is provided under the "Comment Status." If there is no notation, then staff did not provide testimony at a hearing for the proposed project.

During the period March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, the South Coast AQMD received 61 CEQA documents. Attachment B lists documents that are ongoing active projects. Of the 70 documents listed in Attachments A and B:

- 25 comment letters were sent;
- 28 documents were reviewed, but no comments were made;
- 12 documents are currently under review;
- 0 document did not require comments (e.g., public notices);
- 0 document were not reviewed; and
- 5 documents were screened without additional review.

(The above statistics are from March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, and may not include the most recent “Comment Status” updates in Attachments A and B.)

Copies of all comment letters sent to lead agencies can be found on the South Coast AQMD’s CEQA webpage at the following internet address:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/commenting-agency>.

**South Coast AQMD Lead Agency Projects (Attachment C)** – Pursuant to CEQA, the South Coast AQMD periodically acts as lead agency for stationary source permit projects. Under CEQA, the lead agency is responsible for determining the type of CEQA document to be prepared if the proposal for action is considered to be a “project” as defined by CEQA. For example, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared when the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, finds substantial evidence that the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment. Similarly, a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared if the South Coast AQMD determines that the project will not generate significant adverse environmental impacts, or the impacts can be mitigated to less than significance. The ND and MND are written statements describing the reasons why projects will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and, therefore, do not require the preparation of an EIR.

Attachments C to this report summarizes the active projects for which the South Coast AQMD is lead agency and is currently preparing or has prepared environmental documentation. As noted in Attachment C, the South Coast AQMD continued working on the CEQA documents for two active projects during February.

### **Attachments**

- A. Incoming CEQA Documents Log
- B. Ongoing Active Projects for Which South Coast AQMD Has or Will Conduct a CEQA Review
- C. Active South Coast AQMD Lead Agency Projects











**ATTACHMENT A  
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG  
March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> <b>LAC200313-02</b> De Soto Tanks Project	The proposed project consists of demolition of existing reservoir, and construction of 2,500 linear feet of water pipelines, a pump station, and two concrete storage tanks with combined storage capacity of 20 million gallons. The project is located at 11200 De Soto Avenue near the northeast corner of De Soto Avenue and Rinaldi Street in the community of Chatsworth. Reference LAC171205-06  Comment Period: 3/6/2020 - 4/20/2020 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> <b>LAC200317-08</b> Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems	The proposed project consists of modifications to property boundaries for an existing hazardous waste facility permit. The project is located at 2000 East El Segundo Boulevard on the southeast corner of El Segundo Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of El Segundo.  Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: N/A	Permit Modification	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> <b>LAC200317-12</b> Former Ace Cleaners	The proposed project consists of development of remedial actions to clean up contaminated soil with volatile organic compounds on 2.84 acres. The project is located at 29050 South Western Avenue on the northeast corner of South Western Avenue and West Capitol Drive in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.  Comment Period: 3/12/2020 - 4/11/2020 Public Hearing: N/A	Draft Removal Action Workplan	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
<i>Waste and Water-related</i> <b>LAC200324-01</b> DeMenno-Kerdoon	The proposed project consists of modifications to an existing hazardous waste facility permit to change emergency response contact information. The project is located at 2000 North Alameda Street near the southeast corner of North Alameda Street and East Pine Street in the City of Compton.  Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: N/A	Permit Modification	Department of Toxic Substances Control	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

# - Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project.  
Documents received by the CEQA Intergovernmental Review program but not requiring review are not included in this report.























**ATTACHMENT C**  
**ACTIVE SOUTH COAST AQMD LEAD AGENCY PROJECTS**  
**THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	STATUS	CONSULTANT
<p>The Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips) Los Angeles Refinery Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel project was originally proposed to comply with federal, state and South Coast AQMD requirements to limit the sulfur content of diesel fuels. Litigation regarding the CEQA document was filed. Ultimately, the California Supreme Court concluded that the South Coast AQMD had used an inappropriate baseline and directed the South Coast AQMD to prepare an EIR, even though the project has been built and has been in operation since 2006. The purpose of this CEQA document is to comply with the Supreme Court's direction to prepare an EIR.</p>	<p>Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips), Los Angeles Refinery</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>The Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) was circulated for a 30-day public comment period on March 26, 2012 to April 26, 2012. The consultant submitted the administrative Draft EIR to South Coast AQMD in late July 2013. The Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period from September 30, 2014 to November 13, 2014 and two comment letters were received. South Coast AQMD staff edits on the draft responses to comments were incorporated into a draft Final EIR which is undergoing review.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>
<p>Quemetco is proposing to modify existing South Coast AQMD permits to allow the facility to recycle more batteries and to eliminate the existing daily idle time of the furnaces. The proposed project will increase the rotary feed drying furnace feed rate limit from 600 to 750 tons per day and increase the amount of total coke material allowed to be processed. In addition, the project will allow the use of petroleum coke in lieu of or in addition to calcined coke, and remove one existing emergency diesel-fueled internal combustion engine (ICE) and install two new emergency natural gas-fueled ICEs.</p>	<p>Quemetco</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>A Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) was released for a 56-day public review and comment period from August 31, 2018 to October 25, 2018, and 154 comment letters were received. Two CEQA scoping meetings were held on September 13, 2018 and October 11, 2018 in the community. South Coast AQMD staff received a preliminary Draft EIR on December 20, 2019 which is undergoing review.</p>	<p>Trinity Consultants</p>