entered as evidence in support of this Stipulation.

- 6. The District has issued no notices of violation to Baker since April 26, 2022.
- 7. The following are photographs of each enclosure provided by Baker:

## J&M Skimmer Trash Area



**Grease Pit Trash Area** 



**Centrisys Trash Bin** 



1	the parties.					
2	15. Operation under the proposed Third Modified Order for Abatement is not expected to					
3	result in a violation of California Health and Safety Code section 41700 (nuisance).					
4	16. Based on all the evidence in this case, the parties agree that the Status Hearing and					
5	Request to Modify the Order for Abatement should be heard on the Consent Calendar for June 18,					
6	2025, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.					
7	SO STIPULATED.					
8						
9	Dated: June	e 11, 2025		FOR RESPONDENT		
10				BAKER COMMODITIES, INC.		
11						
12				1 1		
13			By:	GEORGE GIGOUNAS		
14				CAROLINELEE		
15				DLA PIPER LLP (US) Attorneys for BAKER COMMODITIES, INC.		
16						
17	Data de Juna	- [12] 2025		EOD DETITIONED		
18	Dated: June	e [12], 2025		FOR PETITIONER SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY		
19				MANAGEMENT DISTRICT		
20				W Star		
21 22			By:	Daphne Hsu		
23				Principal District counsel		
24				Nicholas Dwyer Senior Deputy District Counsel		
25				SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT		
26						
27						
28						
_0			-4-			



3	OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMEN DAPHNE P. HSU, SBN 247256 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DISTRICT COUNSEL NICHOLAS P. DWYER, SBN 299144 SENIOR DEPUTY DISTRICT COUNSEL 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, California 91765 TEL: 909-396-3400 • FAX: 909-396-3458	IT DISTRICT					
6 7	Attorneys for Petitioner SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT						
8	BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE						
9	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY	Y MANAGEM	ENT DISTRICT				
10							
11	In The Matter Of	Case No. 6223	3-1				
12	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY	DECK AD AF	VON OF MOVERN BY				
13	MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,	DECLARATION OF MICHAEL PUA IN SUPPORT OF THE REQUEST TO					
14	Petitioner,	ABATEMEN	IE ORDER FOR IT				
15	VS.	D	1 10 2025				
16	BAKER COMMODITIES INC.,	Date:	June 18, 2025 9:30 am				
17	[Facility ID No. 800016]	Place:	Hearing Board South Coast Air Quality				
18	Respondent.		Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765				
19			Diamond Bar, CA 91703				
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							

1	d. 648443 (Centrisys Enclosure and Afterburner).			
2	10. I am aware that Baker's Facility Permit is expected to be reissued with conditions			
3	agreed upon by the South Coast AQMD and Baker. Following U.S. EPA's 45-day review, South			
4	Coast AQMD expects to reissue the Facility Permit in August of this year.			
5	11. Operation under the proposed Third Modified Order for Abatement is not expected			
6	to result in a violation of California Health and Safety Code section 41700 (nuisance).			
7	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the			
8	foregoing is true and correct.			
9	Executed in Brea, California on June 11, 2025.			
10				
11				
12	Michael, Pua			
13	Michael Pua Air Quality Inspector II			
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26 27				
27				
4ð	_			

# BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2

1

J

4

5

6

In the Matter of

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY

Petitioner,

Respondent.

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

BAKER COMMODITIES, INC.

[Facility ID: #800016]

7

8

9

10

1112

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Case No. 6223-1

[PROPOSED] FINDINGS AND DECISION GRANTING THIRD MODIFIED ORDER FOR ABATEMENT

Hearing Date: June 18, 2025 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: South Coast Air Quality

Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765

## FINDINGS AND DECISION OF THE HEARING BOARD

The Status Report and Request to Modify the Second Modified Order (signed July 22, 2024) for Abatement was heard on the Hearing Board's Consent Calendar on June 18, 2025. The following members of the Hearing Board were present: Micah Ali, Chair; Robert Pearman, Vice Chair; Jerry P. Abraham, MD MPH CMQ; Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta; and Mohan Balagopalan. Petitioner, South Coast Air Quality Management District (hereinafter "South Coast AQMD", "District", or "Petitioner"), represented by attorneys from the District's General Counsel's Office Daphne Hsu, Principal Deputy District Counsel, and Nicholas Dwyer, Senior Deputy District Counsel, did not appear. Respondent, Baker Commodities, Inc. ("Baker" or "Respondent"), represented by DLA Piper LLP (US) attorneys George Gigounas and Caroline Lee, did not appear. The public was given the opportunity to testify and provide comments. The parties filed with the Hearing Board a Joint Status Report and Stipulation to Place Matter on Consent Calendar, the Declaration of Michael Pua, and the [Proposed] Findings and Decision of the Hearing Board. The Declaration of Michael Pua was received as evidence. The [Proposed] Findings and Decision of the

FINDINGS AND DECISION GRANTING THIRD MODIFIED ORDER BAKER COMMODITIES, INC. - [Facility ID No. 800016]

1	Hearing Board was received as an exhibit, and the case was submitted.			
2	BACKGROUND			
3	1. Baker operates the facility located at 4020 Bandini Boulevard, Vernon, CA (the			
4	"Facility").			
5	2. In 2022, the Hearing Board found Baker in violation of Rules 415, 2004, and 3002,			
6	and its permit conditions as set forth in the Hearing Board's Order for Abatement ("Original Order"			
7	The Original Order shut down Baker's rendering, trap grease, and wastewater processing operations			
8	until the Facility put certain operations or equipment into a permanent total enclosure or closed			
9	system.			
10	3. In 2023, the Hearing Board issued the First Modified Order (signed June 21, 2023)			
11	for Abatement to allow the Facility to operate equipment necessary for its trap grease and used			
12	cooking oil operations and its associated wastewater treatment systems.			
13	4. In 2024, the Hearing Board issued the Second Modified Order (signed July 22, 2024)			
14	for Abatement to allow the Facility to operate as a collection center for the receipt and short-term			
15	storage of raw rendering material within a Permanent Total Enclosure before transportation of the			
16	material offsite to a licensed rendering or processing facility. This is in addition to its existing used			
17	cooking oil and trap grease recycling and associated wastewater operations.			
18	FINDINGS OF FACT			
19	The Hearing Board finds and decides as follows:			
20	1. The parties provided a status report and requested to modify the Second Modified			
21	Order for Abatement.			
22	2. South Coast AQMD has not issued any notices of violation to Baker since April 26,			
23	2022.			
24	3. Baker has constructed three enclosures required by Condition 8 of the Second			
25	Modified Order: enclosures for (i) J&M skimmer trash area; the (ii) grease pit trash area; and (iii)			
26	Centrisys trash bin.			
27	4. Permits required by conditions of the Second Modified Order for Abatement were			
28	issued by South Coast AQMD and Baker appealed conditions within those permits. Baker filed a			

1	conditions set forth in Attachment A ("Third Modified Order"). This Third Modified Order fully			
2	replaces the Second Modified Order of Abatement, the First Modified Order of Abatement, and the			
3	Original Order.			
4	This Third Modified Order is not and does not act as a variance; Baker is subject to all rules			
5	and regulations of the District and to all applicable provisions of California law. Nothing herein shall			
6	be deemed or construed to limit the authority of the District to issue Notices of Violation, to seek			
7	civil penalties or injunctive release, or to other administrative legal relief. The Findings of Fact are			
8	based on evidence presented by the Executive Officer and Baker as of the date hereof.			
9	Good cause appearing, it is so ordered.			
10	BOARD MEMBER:			
11				
12	DATE:			
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28	-4-			

#### ATTACHMENT A

#### **Third Modified Conditions for Baker Commodities**

- 1. Baker shall not resume grinding, cooking and downstream operations related to rendering of animal products at the Facility. Baker shall disconnect (if not already) and keep disconnected any gas, fuel, and/or steam lines to cookers used for rendering, including but not limited to Device D-411 and D-224. Within 14 days of the Second Modified Order's effective date, Baker shall pay expedited permit application fees and submit any necessary additional permit applications to modify other processes as may be necessary to operate as a collection center.
- 2. If Baker's permit application related to its raw materials receiving area enclosure expansion is withdrawn, denied or rejected, Baker shall submit a new permit application to operate as a collection center within 7 days from the date of withdrawal, denial or rejection.
- 3. Baker may use the Facility as a collection center, which is the receipt of raw rendering material for the purpose of short-term storage within a Permanent Total Enclosure (PTE) before transportation of the material offsite to another licensed rendering plant or pet food processor. The location of the collection center operation involved is identified in **Exhibit A.**
- 4. Baker shall cease operating as a collection center if the applications are denied and shall submit a new permit application (or applications) within 7 days of the denial or rejection. Baker may resume operating as a collection center once all three permits to construct for capital improvements described in Section 8 (below) have been issued.
  - Baker shall within 5 working days of the Second Modified Order submit information on the use of the raw material receiving area pit for storing Hard Materials to supplement Application No. 648440 submitted for the PTE expansion.
  - Baker shall not modify the pit in the raw materials receiving area until Baker receives a permit to construct for such modification.
- 5. Baker shall not use the Open-Air Pit to store any "sludge" or water-bearing waste generated from the Facility unless such water-bearing waste is in an enclosure, covered container, or within a closed system.
- 6. Baker may operate its wastewater treatment system per its permit conditions and the abatement order.
- 7. Baker shall continue to comply with all obligations to operate its trap grease deliveries or process trap grease, including any current permit requirements for fully enclosing or putting into a closed system elements of the wastewater treatment system.
- 8. Baker shall implement the following capital improvements:
  - a. New Capital Improvements: Baker shall construct enclosures over the (i) grease pit trash area, (ii) J&M skimmer trash bin, and (iii) Centrisys trash bin, the locations of which are identified in Exhibit A. Baker shall apply for any other permits that may be necessary to construct such features within 30 days of approval of this Second Modified Order. Baker shall complete construction of the three enclosures within 120 calendar days of the issuance of District Permits to Construct and notify the District

of completion of each enclosure. If the enclosures cannot be completed within those 120 days, and if Baker and the District are unable to reach agreement regarding an extension to time, either party may submit a request to the Hearing Board for extension to Baker's time to complete the enclosures, or for suspension of collection operations until such enclosures are complete.

If the District requests additional information to process the applications for enclosures and the raw material area expansion, Baker shall provide such additional information within 5 working days, or within the timeframe requested by the District, whichever is later.

- 9. All trash or wastewater, digested sludge shall be disposed of in roll-off bins that will remain covered except when such bins are being filled. This condition applies to devices, including but not limited to D-269, D-329, D-234, D-368, and D-369. When material is dropped into Baker bins (that is, the initial sludge collection bins), the bins shall have their freefall height enclosed.
- 10. For any equipment that discharges trash materials or digested sludge from trap grease wastewater operations into trash bins via a freeboard drop, Baker shall cover the free board drop.

### 11. Collections Operations Conditions

- a) Baker shall not use the Facility as a collection center, until (1) it has conducted a demonstration of the use of loading and unloading equipment with rollup doors closed and truck inside the enclosure, and (2) applications for the permit to construct the three enclosures in 8.a. have been submitted, and (3) its Environmental Compliance Specialist (ECS) and other personnel with responsibility for compliance with the collections operations conditions of this Order have received training regarding its requirements (and Baker shall certify to AQMD when this condition has been satisfied).
- b) "Hard Material" is defined as animal fat and bone, including animal carcasses and parts, packing house or grocery store cuttings and out-of-date products, viscera, offal, feces and other organic matter generated by food processors, but expressly excluding any trap or restaurant grease material. Prior to modification of the pit (removal of rollers and placement of panels or installation of permitted screw conveyor system), Baker shall store a maximum of 60,000 lbs. of Hard Material on the slab within the Raw Material Enclosure at any time. After modification of the pit, Baker may store a maximum of 175,000 lbs. of Hard Material in its Raw Material Enclosure at any time, prior to completion of the extension of the Raw Material Enclosure. No other raw material shall be stored in the Raw Material Enclosure.
- c) Hard Material shall only be received from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm, except for an emergency (only six days of emergency every 90 days shall be allowed) in which event Baker shall promptly advise AQMD of this circumstance (by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG and emailing <a href="mailto:plongoni@aqmd.gov">plongoni@aqmd.gov</a>) and keep a log of the reason for the emergency. Emergency days cannot be taken consecutively without the approval of AQMD.
- d) Baker shall only receive 20 deliveries of Hard Material each day, except that number may be exceeded one time every 90 days in case of an emergency, in which event Baker shall promptly advise AQMD of this circumstance.
- e) No storage of Hard Material shall remain overnight at the facility, unless contained in the PTE or, in the event the PTE lacks capacity, in covered

containers. No long-term storage of Hard Material shall occur at the Facility. All Hard Material shall leave as soon as practicable and, in any case, within two days of its arrival at the latest, except in the event of an emergency in which case, the material must be removed the following day by midnight. Emergency days cannot be taken consecutively without the approval of AQMD. Only six days of emergency every 90 days shall be allowed, in which event Baker shall promptly advise AQMD of this circumstance (by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG and emailing plongoni@aqmd.gov) and keep a log of the reason for the emergency.

- f) Before the screw conveyor in the Facility's Raw Material Enclosure is permitted and operating, Baker shall wash down the pit of its Raw Material Enclosure twice per week, on Wednesday or Thursday and Saturday or Sunday. In performing these washdowns, Baker is not required to remove all residue of animal matter from the pit, but must clean the pit to the extent reasonably practicable. Baker shall inspect the exterior of the Raw Material Enclosure daily, to ensure that no Hard Material escapes from the Raw Material Enclosure to the exterior.
- g) If Hard Material is discovered to have escaped from the Raw Material Enclosure to the exterior, Baker shall promptly clean up such material, investigate how such material escaped, and take corrective action to prevent Hard Material from escaping in the future.
- h) Baker shall not load or unload any Hard Material outside of the Raw Material Enclosure.
- i) Baker shall keep records, in the form of weight tickets from the Facility scale, of the inbound and outbound material to demonstrate compliance with the Hard Material limit in its Raw Material Enclosure, as specified above. The records shall be made readily available during any inspection or upon any request from South Coast AQMD personnel.
- j) Baker shall send the previous month's material records to South Coast AQMD (Attn: Paolo Longoni at plongoni@aqmd.gov) on the first Tuesday of each month.

#### 12. Odor Best Management Practices

- a. Baker shall do the following:
  - i. Covering of Incoming Transport Vehicles. Transport vehicles delivering raw rendering materials shall not be permitted past the first point of contact at a rendering facility for incoming trucks, such as a guard shack or weigh station, unless the cargo area of the vehicle is completely enclosed or fully tarped.
  - ii. Delivery of Raw Rendering Materials. If raw rendering materials arrive at the Facility uncovered, the owner or operator shall ensure those incoming raw rendering materials are transferred into the raw rendering receiving area enclosure or covered containers (including truck trailers with fully covered beds, e.g., by secured tarp) within 60 minutes after the inbound truck enters the facility.
  - iii. Washing of Outgoing Transport Vehicles. Where raw rendering materials come directly into contact with a transport vehicle and the cargo area is exposed to the air, the cargo area shall be washed before exiting the enclosure. In addition, at the end of each working day, equipment and vehicles used to load and unload raw rendering material shall be washed inside the enclosure.
  - iv. Washing of Drums and Containers. Open drums or containers holding raw rendering materials shall be washed prior to leaving Baker.
  - v. Washdown of Receiving Area. Walls, floors, and other surfaces of the receiving area of a rendering facility, and any equipment operated in the receiving area, shall be thoroughly washed to remove animal matter before the start of collections

- on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, except that (i) Baker shall not be required to wash the interior of the Facility's Raw Material Enclosure screw conveyors; and (ii) Baker shall only be required to wash the pit of the Facility's Raw Material Enclosure twice per week, in compliance with Section 11.a.f above.
- vi. Cleaning Floor Drains. Accessible interior and exterior floor drains shall be inspected and cleaned not less frequently than twice per month to remove accumulation of rendering materials.
- vii. Odor Detection. If an odor is detected at or beyond the property line of the Facility by South Coast AQMD personnel and/or site staff, Baker shall complete the odor determination and remedial steps listed in its "Odor Response Plan" for "Response for Unknown Odors or General Complaints" within 2 hours of when Baker first noticed or is notified of such odor. If Baker is closed (that is, no staff is on-site) at the time of notification, Baker shall complete such steps within 6 hours. If the sources were identified as related to the collection center or transloading operations, and after remedial measures are taken an odor is still detected at or beyond the property line of the Facility, Baker shall take additional remedial measures as reasonably requested by the South Coast AQMD personnel, but *not* including immediately foregoing receipt of additional materials for collection or removal of existing materials within 3 hours unless under the circumstances of subpart 'a' below.
  - a) if the District issues a Notice of Violation to the Facility related to receiving Hard Material after odor complaints, for the next 30 calendar days after such issuance, the additional remedial measures that may be reasonably requested by the South Coast AQMD personnel *may include* immediately foregoing receipt of additional materials for collection or removal of existing materials within 3 hours.
- viii. Odor Log. If South Coast AQMD personnel and/or on-site staff detect odors at or beyond the property line of the Facility, Baker shall keep a contemporaneous daily log of those odors and any remedial measure(s) taken. Such records shall be available to South Coast AQMD staff upon request.
  - ix. Environmental Compliance Specialist ("ECS"). a) Qualifications; this position is to be held by a person who has technical training and/or experience in this field. b) an ECS or other responsible Baker agent shall be available on call to the Facility to respond to odor issues, take remedial measures and respond to AQMD requests. The name, email address, and phone number of this agent shall be provided to AQMD.
  - x. Baker shall investigate within two (2) weeks of the date this Order is granted, the use of positive deodorant food-grade suppressant for the raw materials with the potential to produce nuisance odor conditions and all raw materials that have exceeded 24 hours of on-site storage time (See Exhibit 2, Page 59 of Rule 415 Staff Report, dated November 3, 2017, for this reference on odor suppressant). Baker shall report the results of this investigation and feasibility analysis to plongoni@aqmd.gov, dhsu@aqmd.gov, and the Clerk of the Hearing Board at clerkofboard@aqmd.gov.
- Baker's standard operating procedures and Odor Response Plan (contained in exhibits to Baker's petition for modified order and related filings) shall be deemed incorporated as necessary to facilitate compliance with this Order, and if there is a conflict between the standard operating procedures and Odor Response Plan and the conditions in Attachment A, the conditions in this Attachment A prevail and must be followed. It is expressly stated that the reference in the Transloading SOP, General Conditions 1) "After the enclosure extension is permitted and construction is completed, the total maximum

- capacity shall be 400,000 lbs." is NOT incorporated into this Order.
- 14. Baker shall keep a copy of the abatement order, standard operating procedures, and Odor Response Plan onsite and available.
- 15. Within 7 calendar days after the final Facility Permit, including all four permits to construct associated with Application Nos. 648441 (J&M Skimmer Enclosure), 648442 (Trap Grease Area Enclosure and Wastewater Scrubber), 648443 (Centrisys Enclosure and Afterburner), and 648440 (Raw Material Enclosure and Screw Conveyor) are issued by the District consistent with the drafts discussed by the Parties, Baker shall notify the Clerk of the Hearing Board (ClerkofBoard@aqmd.gov) and South Coast AQMD counsel (dhsu@aqmd.gov and ndwyer@aqmd.gov) of their issuance, which constitutes final compliance of this Order for Abatement.
- 16. The Order for Abatement shall automatically terminate upon Baker's notification of final compliance to the Hearing Board.