

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation - State
Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth St, Suite 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502

From: South Coast Air Quality Management
District (South Coast AQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

and

County Clerk, Dean Logan
County of Los Angeles
12400 E Imperial Hwy, Room 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Public Resources Code
Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15094

Project Title: Sunshine Canyon Landfill Flare Capacity Expansion Project

Lead Agency: South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)

**Lead Agency
Contact Person:** Sina Taghvaei, Ph.D.

Telephone Number: (909) 396-2192

State Clearinghouse No: 1992041053
(Formerly 92041053)

Date Certified: February 25, 2026

**Project
Applicant:** Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc., operating under the name
Sunshine Canyon Landfill Republic Services Inc. (South Coast AQMD Facility
ID No. 049111)

**Project
Location:** 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, CA 91342, in Los Angeles County and the
City of Los Angeles

**Project
Description:** The Sunshine Canyon Landfill Flare Capacity Expansion Project (Flare
Capacity Expansion Project) aims to further reduce odors at the Sunshine
Canyon Landfill and prevent fugitive releases of methane (CH₄), which is a
potent greenhouse gas (GHG), and toxic air contaminants that are present in
landfill gas (LFG) by increasing the flaring capacity of the gas control and
collection system to combust the maximum amount of LFG that is estimated to
be generated in the future. The applicant seeks modifications to its existing
permits to: 1) install and operate two additional LFG flares and two additional
300-horsepower electric blowers; and 2) increase the permitted site-wide LFG
combustion limit from 16,100 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) to 33,334
scfm, corrected to 50 percent CH₄ and averaged over 24 hours. No component
of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project is expected to expand landfill capacity
or increase the amount of waste that can be accepted on a daily, monthly, or

annual basis. The Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, which tiers off of the previous Final SEIR for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that was certified by the City of Los Angeles on December 8, 1999 (December 1999 Final SEIR), concluded that significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts may occur for the topics of air quality and GHG emissions from operation of the LFG flares. No other significant adverse impacts were identified. This facility is not identified on lists compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control per Government Code Section 65962.5.

This is to advise that the South Coast AQMD, as the Lead Agency for the above-described Flare Capacity Expansion Project, has certified the Final SEIR, and has made the following determinations:

1. The South Coast AQMD has evaluated the potential environmental effects of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project analyzed in the Final SEIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. When examining the potential environmental impacts, the analysis revealed that the Flare Capacity Expansion Project contains new information of substantial importance which was not known and could not have been known at the time the December 1999 Final SEIR was certified. [CEQA Guidelines 15162(a)(3)].
3. The requirements for a Subsequent EIR were triggered pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, and a Subsequent EIR was prepared.
4. The Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project tiers off of the previous December 1999 Final SEIR as allowed by CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152, 15162, and 15385. The Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project is a subsequent document to the December 1999 Final SEIR. The December 1999 Final SEIR (State Clearinghouse No. 1992041053, formerly State Clearinghouse No. 92041053), upon which the Final SEIR for Flare Capacity Expansion Project relies, was incorporated by reference pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15150.
5. The Flare Capacity Expansion Project, as analyzed in the Final SEIR, contains new information of substantial importance which was not known and could not have been known at the time the December 1999 Final SEIR was certified and the Flare Capacity Expansion Project will have significant effects that were not previously discussed. [CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3)(A)].
6. The Final SEIR concluded that the Flare Capacity Expansion Project will have the potential to generate significant and unavoidable adverse air quality impacts during operation because emissions from the two new proposed flares would result in exceedances of the daily air quality significance thresholds for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and carbon monoxide (CO) and that the quantities of these pollutants were greater and more severe than the previously identified significant adverse air quality impacts related to

- emissions of NO_x, SO_x, and CO in the December 1999 Final SEIR. In addition, PM_{2.5} was not previously evaluated in the December 1999 Final SEIR; therefore, operation of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project would create a new significant adverse air quality impact related to PM_{2.5} emissions.
7. The Final SEIR also concluded that the combined construction and operational phases of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project will have the potential to generate significant and unavoidable greenhouse gas emission (GHG) impacts because the GHGs would exceed the South Coast AQMD annual significance threshold. GHGs were not previously evaluated in the December 1999 Final SEIR; therefore, operation of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project would create a new significant adverse GHG emissions impact. Although the Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project concluded that the increase in potential GHG emissions from the two new flares would be significant, the two new flares would serve a beneficial purpose by destroying CH₄, a potent GHG found in LFG. The South Coast AQMD has determined that combusting LFG via flare technology is capable of reducing GHG emissions in terms of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) by approximately 80 percent compared to releasing uncombusted LFG to the atmosphere.
 8. Because significant and unavoidable adverse air quality and GHG impacts were identified for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, the Final SEIR included an alternatives analysis as required by CEQA Guidelines 15126. However, no new feasible mitigation measures were identified that would reduce or eliminate the significant adverse impacts to air quality during operation and GHGs for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project.
 9. Mitigation measures were previously adopted as part of the certification of the December 1999 Final SEIR and these mitigation measures were memorialized in a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Summary (MMRS); Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations were also adopted. The MMRS, Findings, and Statement of Overriding Considerations were applicable to the entirety of the project analyzed in the December 1999 Final SEIR. However, the mitigation measures in the MMRS have been updated multiple times with the most recent version from 2006, which was incorporated by reference in Appendix B of the Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, such that only the following mitigation measures and the associated Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations are applicable to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Flare Capacity Expansion Project and will remain in effect: air quality mitigation measures MMRS 6.01, 6.05, 6.07, 6.09, and 7.04.
 10. Because the Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project identified potentially significant and unavoidable adverse air quality and GHG impacts, Findings pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and a Statement of Overriding Considerations pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 were adopted.

- 11. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15092(b)(2)(B), the South Coast AQMD has determined that the remaining significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable in accordance with the Findings made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 are acceptable due to overriding concerns described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.
- 12. The South Coast AQMD Executive Officer, prior to making a decision on the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, has reviewed and considered: a) the Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, which includes the 2006 Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Summary in Appendix B, and its Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations; b) the December 1999 Final SEIR and its Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Notice of Determination; c) supporting documentation including but not limited to the proposed Significant Title V Permit Revision (South Coast AQMD Application No. 598017) and draft permit.

The following documents associated with the Flare Capacity Expansion Project may be examined at South Coast AQMD Headquarters located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765: 1) the Final SEIR for the Flare Capacity Expansion Project, which includes the 2006 Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Summary in Appendix B, and its Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations; 2) the December 1999 Final SEIR and its Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Notice of Determination; and 3) supporting documentation including but not limited to the proposed Significant Title V Permit Revision and draft permit for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Flare Capacity Expansion Project; and 5) record of approval of the Flare Capacity Expansion Project.

Date Received for Filing

Signature: 

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District



Approved as to form, Josephine Lee
Principal Deputy District Counsel