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South Coast AQMD Requires Los Angeles Flavoring Company to Reduce Odors, Provide Air Filtration Systems for Nearby Residents

DIAMOND BAR— Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) announced a recent settlement with American Fruit and Flavors, LLC (AFF), a flavoring company located in East Los Angeles for causing odors that impacted the public and for failing to properly permit equipment in violation of agency rules. Under the agreement, the company will spend \$100,000 on portable residential air purifiers for households surrounding the facility and pay a \$46,000 penalty.

"It is important that companies remain in compliance with our rules in order to protect their neighbors from odors that can impact their daily lives," said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD Executive Officer. "We are pleased that the company will invest in the local community by providing air purifiers to residents most impacted."

AFF is a beverage flavoring producer located at 1547 Knowles Avenue, in Los Angeles. From November 2021 through January 2022, South Coast issued five Notices of Violation (NOVs) to the company for violations of South Coast AQMD's public nuisance and permit rules. Four NOVs were issued for odors determined to cause a public nuisance in violation of the agency's Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700. The fifth NOV was issued to the facility for processing solvents containing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) without properly permitting its equipment. The facility made voluntary operational changes to reduce odors, no additional NOVs were issued after these changes were implemented.

Under the terms of the settlement, AFF will conduct outreach to residents living within a 0.5 mile radius of the facility, and create a webpage where local households can select a device and two replacement filters at no cost. The company will fund one portable filtration unit per household until funds are used.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los

Angeles, Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.