



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Five Violations to World Oil Recycling in Compton**

**Diamond Bar, CA** — The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has issued five Notices of Violation (NOVs) related to operations at Demenno – Kerdoon (doing business as “World Oil Recycling”) in Compton, California. Four NOVs were issued to the facility, and one NOV was issued to a contractor. The violations include odor impacts to nearby communities and failures to maintain equipment in proper operating condition.

Since January 1, 2026, South Coast AQMD has received more than 70 public complaints reporting gas-like odors in the area. This total reflects a significant increase from prior years and included odor complaints from nearby Jefferson Elementary School. Inspectors responded to the complaints and conducted over a dozen on-site inspections at the facility as part of their investigation.

On May 21, South Coast AQMD inspectors responded to a small fire at World Oil Recycling. The fire, which occurred at approximately 8:00 a.m., was determined to have been caused by a breakdown in the oil distillation process. The Compton Fire Department responded to the incident and extinguished the fire within an hour.

South Coast AQMD subsequently issued three NOVs for Public Nuisance. On May 28, June 1, and June 2, inspectors responded to complaints from Jefferson Elementary School, confirmed odors with school staff, and traced them to operations at the facility. Violations were issued to the company on each of those days for violations of South Coast AQMD Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700 (prohibition of emissions that cause injury, nuisance, or annoyance to a significant number of people or the public).

As part of the investigation, South Coast AQMD inspectors used a handheld Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) optical gas imaging camera and identified emissions from a wastewater storage tank that may have contributed to the reported odors. Inspectors also observed emissions from a

centrifuge pump used to separate solid and liquid materials. The pump was being operated by a contractor.

On June 12, South Coast AQMD issued an NOV to the contractor for failing to maintain the centrifuge pump in proper operating condition. The wastewater storage tank, which is used to store and separate wastewater, had recently undergone decommissioning activities, including the transfer and separation of remaining materials. South Coast AQMD issued another NOV to the company on June 16 for failing to maintain the storage tank in vapor-tight condition and for failing to operate the centrifuge pump in proper operating condition.

The facility is currently making repairs to the wastewater storage tank. This remains an active and ongoing investigation.

World Oil Recycling is a [Title V](#) facility operating under the federal Operating Permit Program. Located at 2000 N. Alameda St. in Compton, the facility receives used oils, glycol, and wastewater and re-refines these materials into engine oil and glycol products for reuse.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, facilities may take voluntary actions to reduce emissions or, otherwise, prevent future violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may be filed in superior court.

South Coast AQMD responds to all air quality complaints. Members of the public can report odors, dust, smoke, or other air quality concerns by:

- Calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG (288-7664)
- Filing a report via the [online complaint portal](#) at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)
- Using the [South Coast AQMD mobile app](#)

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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