



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Issues Additional Violation to World Oil Recycling for May 21 Fire Impacting Nearby Community

Diamond Bar, CA — The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Demenno – Kerdoon (doing business as World Oil Recycling) for failing to properly operate its air pollution control equipment during and after the May 21, 2026 fire at its Compton, California facility. This is the tenth violation that the agency has issued to the facility this year.

On May 21, South Coast AQMD responded to a fire at World Oil Recycling. Inspectors were deployed and found that the fire was caused during repair efforts following a breakdown in the oil distillation process. Following a lengthy investigation, it was determined that a pump was being repaired when about 300 gallons of oil leaked and caught fire. The Compton Fire Department extinguished the fire within an hour.

Today's NOV included violations of permit conditions caused by the fire, including failing to operate pollution controls within approved limits and failing to properly monitor valve positions to control airflow.

This NOV follows South Coast AQMD's previous enforcement actions in 2026 against the company for failing to maintain a wastewater storage tank in vapor-tight condition and for failing to operate a centrifuge pump in proper operating condition. Seven NOVs were also issued for public nuisance following more than 150 public complaints of gas-like odors reported near the facility since January 1, including complaints from nearby Jefferson Elementary School.

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); or
- Filing a report via the online complaint portal at www.aqmd.gov; or
- 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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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