

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 4, 2023

AGENDA NO. 10

REPORT: Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received

SYNOPSIS: This report provides a listing of CEQA documents received by South Coast AQMD between May 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023, and those projects for which South Coast AQMD is acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source Committee, on June 16, 2023 reviewed the May 1 – May 31, 2023 portion of the report; while the June 1 – June 30, 2023 portion has had no committee review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

SR:MK:MM:BR:SW:ET

CEQA Document Receipt and Review Logs (Attachments A and B) – Each month, South Coast AQMD receives numerous CEQA documents from other public agencies on projects that could adversely affect air quality. A listing of all documents received during the reporting period from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 is included in Attachment A1. A listing of all documents received during the reporting period from June 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023, is included in Attachment A2. A listing of active projects for which South Coast AQMD staff is continuing to evaluate or prepare comments for the April 2023 reporting period is included as Attachment B. During the period from May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, a total of 123 CEQA documents were received and 29 comment letters were sent.

The Intergovernmental Review function, which consists of reviewing and commenting on the adequacy of the air quality analysis in CEQA documents prepared by other lead agencies, is consistent with the Board's 1997 Environmental Justice Guiding Principles and Environmental Justice Initiative #4. As required by the Environmental Justice

Program Enhancements for fiscal year (FY) 2002-03, approved by the Board in October 2002, each attachment notes proposed projects where South Coast AQMD has been contacted regarding potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. South Coast AQMD has established an internal central contact to receive information on projects with potential air quality-related environmental justice concerns. The public may contact South Coast AQMD about projects of concern by the following means: in writing via fax, email, or standard letters; through telephone communication; and as part of oral comments at South Coast AQMD meetings or other meetings where South Coast AQMD staff is present. The attachments also identify, for each project, the dates of the public comment period and the public hearing date, if applicable. Interested parties should rely on the lead agencies themselves for definitive information regarding public comment periods and hearings as these dates are occasionally modified by the lead agency.

In January 2006, the Board approved the Clean Port Initiative Workplan (Workplan). One action item of the Workplan was to prepare a monthly report describing CEQA documents for projects related to goods movement and to make full use of the process to ensure the air quality impacts of such projects are thoroughly mitigated. In accordance with this action item, Attachments A and B organize the CEQA documents received according to the following categories: goods movement projects; schools; landfills and wastewater projects; airports; general land use projects, etc. In response to the action item relative to mitigation, staff maintains a compilation of mitigation measures presented as a series of tables relative to off-road engines; on-road engines; harbor craft; ocean-going vessels; locomotives; fugitive dust; and greenhouse gases which are available on the CEQA portion of South Coast AQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>. Staff will continue compiling tables of mitigation measures for other emission sources such a ground support equipment.

Staff focuses on reviewing and preparing comments for proposed projects: 1) where South Coast AQMD is a responsible agency (e.g., when air permits are required); 2) that may have significant adverse regional air quality impacts (e.g., special event centers, landfills, goods movement); 3) that may have localized or toxic air quality impacts (e.g., warehouse and distribution centers); 4) where environmental justice concerns have been raised; and 5) which a lead or responsible agency has specifically requested South Coast AQMD review. If staff provided written comments to a lead agency, a hyperlink to the "South Coast AQMD Letter" is included in the "Project Description" column which corresponds to a notation in the "Comment Status" column. In addition, if staff testified at a hearing for a proposed project, a notation is also included in the "Comment Status" column. If there is no notation, then staff did not provide testimony at a hearing for the proposed project.

During the period from May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, the South Coast AQMD received 123 CEQA documents. In addition, there are 8 CEQA documents for ongoing active projects that either have been reviewed or are still under review which are listed in the Attachment B. The current status of the total 131 documents listed in Attachments A1, A2, and B are summarized as follows:

- 29 comment letters were sent;
- 83 documents were reviewed, but no comments were made;
- 19 documents are currently under review;

(The above statistics are from May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 and may not include the most recent “Comment Status” updates in Attachments A1, A2, and B.)

Copies of all comment letters sent to lead agencies are available on the CEQA portion of South Coast AQMD’s website at:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/commenting-agency>.

South Coast AQMD Lead Agency Projects (Attachment C) – Pursuant to CEQA, South Coast AQMD periodically acts as lead agency for air permit projects. Under CEQA, the lead agency is responsible for determining the type of CEQA document to be prepared if the proposal for action is considered to be a “project” as defined by CEQA. For example, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared when South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, finds substantial evidence that the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment. Similarly, a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared if South Coast AQMD determines that the project will not generate significant adverse environmental impacts, or the impacts can be mitigated to less than significance. The ND and MND are types of CEQA documents which analyze the potential environmental impacts and describe the reasons why a significant adverse effect on the environment will not occur such that the preparation of an EIR is not required.

Attachment C to this report summarizes the active projects for which South Coast AQMD is lead agency and is currently preparing or has prepared environmental documentation. As noted in Attachment C, South Coast AQMD is lead agency for three active projects during May 2023 and June 2023.

Attachments

A1. Incoming CEQA Documents Log for May 2023

A2. Incoming CEQA Documents Log for June 2023

B. Ongoing Active Projects for Which South Coast AQMD Has or Is Continuing to Conduct a CEQA Review for April 2023

C. Active South Coast AQMD Lead Agency Projects for May 2023 and June 2023

**ATTACHMENT A1
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC230516-13 Wilshire and Cloverdale Project	The project consists of construction of 419 residential units for extremely low-income households and 2,645 square foot of restaurant uses on approximately 9.65 acres. The project is located on the southeast corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Cloverdale Avenue. Comment Period: 5/16/2023 - 6/15/2023 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Preparation	City of Los Angeles	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC230519-02 7222 Tyrone Avenue Project	The project consists of demolition of an existing residential unit and construction a 9,600 square foot eight-unit apartment building on 0.15 acre. The project is located at 7222 North Tyrone Avenue near the northeast corner of Tyrone Avenue and Sherman Way. Comment Period: 5/18/2023 - 6/7/2023 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Los Angeles	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
General Land Use (residential, etc.) LAC230524-05 Title 14, Section 15082(a) of the California Code of Regulations	The project consists of a 1,952 square foot residential unit on 1.02 acres. The project is located in 3577 Canyon Crest Road near the northwest corner of Canyon Crest Road and Florecita Drive in Altadena. Comment Period: 5/23/2023 - 6/26/2023 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Preparation	Los Angeles County	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
General Land Use (residential, etc.) RVC230502-06 Pre-Application Review No. 230029 (PAR230029)	The project consists of construction of 151 residential units on 19.42 acres. The project is located on the southeast corner of Auld Road and Pourroy Road. Comment Period: 4/26/2023 - 5/11/2023 Public Hearing: 5/11/2023	Initial Project Consultation	Riverside County	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project. Documents received by the CEQA Intergovernmental Review program but not requiring review are not included in this report.

**ATTACHMENT A2
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
Transportation LAC230606-01 Santa Monica Pier Bridge Replacement Project	The project consists of construction of a bridge with improved structural stability and enhanced vehicular and pedestrian access to meet seismic standards. The project is located near the southwest corner of Broadway and Ocean Avenue. Reference LAC220921-04, LAC191101-02, and LAC180201-01 Comment Period: N/A Public Hearing: 6/13/2023	Notice of Availability of a Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment	City of Santa Monica	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Transportation LAC230606-09 LA-47 - Vincent Thomas Bridge Deck Replacement (EA 07-39020)	The project consists of removal and replacement of an entire bridge deck and seismic sensors on the Vincent Thomas Bridge. The project is located on State Route 47 (Bridge #53-1471) in Los Angeles within the designated AB 617 Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community. Reference LAC230418-09 Comment Period: 4/13/2023 - 7/10/2023 Public Hearing: 4/27/2023	Other	California Department of Transportation	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Transportation ORC230613-04 I-5 Managed Lanes Project (Red Hill Ave. to OC/LA County Line)	The project consists of improvements to lanes in both directions of Interstate 5 due to degradation and operational deficiencies. The project is located on Interstate 5 extending between Red Hill Avenue (Post Mile 28.9) to the Orange County/Los Angeles County line (Post Mile 44.4). Comment Period: 6/5/2023 - 7/20/2023 Public Hearing: 6/28/2023	Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	California Department of Transportation	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project. Documents received by the CEQA Intergovernmental Review program but not requiring review are not included in this report.

**ATTACHMENT A2
INCOMING CEQA DOCUMENTS LOG
June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

SOUTH COAST AQMD LOG-IN NUMBER PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DOC.	LEAD AGENCY	COMMENT STATUS
Transportation RVC230613-07 Skyview Road Pedestrian Bridge Project	The project consists of construction of a 370 foot long and 18 foot wide pedestrian bridge to connect a gap on along Skyview Road over the French Valley Creek. The project is located near the northwest corner of Skyview Road and Algarve Avenue in Winchester. Comment Period: 5/24/2023 - 6/23/2023 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration	County of Riverside Transportation Department	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Institutional (schools, government, etc.) LAC230628-08 Teen & Senior Center Projects, General Plan Amendment Case No. GPA 23-02 and Zone Change Case No. ZC 23-02	The project consists of construction of a 12,355 square foot recreational building on 12.7 acres. The project is located near the southeast corner of Clark Avenue and Oak Street. Comment Period: 6/23/2023 - 7/24/2023 Public Hearing: 8/14/2023	Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration	City of Bellflower	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Institutional (schools, government, etc.) RVC230613-15 Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project	The project consists of construction of 39 lighting poles ranging 50 to 90 feet in height. The project is located at 31001 Rattler Road near the northeast corner of Ramon Road and Da Vall Drive in Rancho Mirage. Reference RVC230329-06 Comment Period: 5/31/2023 - 7/17/2023 Public Hearing: N/A	Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report	Palm Springs Unified School District	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received
Retail LAC230607-01 Pacific Place Project	The project consists of construction of a 206,756 square foot self-storage building on approximately 14.20 acres. The project is at 3701 Pacific Place near the northwest corner of North Pacific Place and Ambeco Road within the designated AB 617 Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community. Comment Period: 6/7/2023 - 7/7/2023 Public Hearing: 6/21/2023	Notice of Preparation	City of Long Beach	Document reviewed - No comments sent for this document received

- Project has potential environmental justice concerns due to the nature and/or location of the project. Documents received by the CEQA Intergovernmental Review program but not requiring review are not included in this report.

ATTACHMENT C
ACTIVE SOUTH COAST AQMD LEAD AGENCY
PROJECTS FROM MAY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	STATUS	CONSULTANT
<p>Quemetco is proposing to modify existing South Coast AQMD permits to allow the facility to recycle more batteries and to eliminate the existing daily idle time of the furnaces. The proposed project will increase the rotary feed drying furnace feed rate limit from 600 to 750 tons per day and increase the amount of total coke material allowed to be processed. In addition, the project will allow the use of petroleum coke in lieu of or in addition to calcined coke, and remove one existing emergency diesel-fueled internal combustion engine (ICE) and install two new emergency natural gas-fueled ICEs.</p>	<p>Quemetco</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</p>	<p>The Draft EIR was released for a 124-day public review and comment period from October 14, 2021 to February 15, 2022 and approximately 200 comment letters were received.</p> <p>Staff held two community meetings, on November 10, 2021 and February 9, 2022, which presented an overview of the proposed project, the CEQA process, detailed analysis of the potentially significant environmental topic areas, and the existing regulatory safeguards. Written comments submitted relative to the Draft EIR and oral comments made at the community meetings, along with responses will be included in the Final EIR which is currently being prepared by the consultant.</p> <p>After the Draft EIR public comment and review period closed, Quemetco submitted additional applications for other permit modifications which are also being evaluated by staff.</p>	<p>Trinity Consultants</p>
<p>Sunshine Canyon Landfill is proposing to modify its South Coast AQMD permits for its active landfill gas collection and control system to accommodate the increased collection of landfill gas. The proposed project will: 1) install two new low emission flares with two additional 300-horsepower electric blowers; and 2) increase the landfill gas flow limit of the existing flares.</p>	<p>Sunshine Canyon Landfill</p>	<p>Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)</p>	<p>South Coast AQMD staff reviewed and provided comments on the preliminary air quality analysis, health risk assessment (HRA), and Preliminary Draft SEIR which are currently being addressed by the consultant.</p>	<p>SCS Engineers</p>
<p>Tesoro is proposing to modify its Title V permit to: 1) add gas oil as a commodity that can be stored in three of the six new crude oil storage tanks at the Carson Crude Terminal (previously assessed in the May 2017 Final EIR); and 2) drain, clean and decommission Reservoir 502, a 1.5 million barrel concrete lined, wooden-roof topped reservoir used to store gas oil.</p>	<p>Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company, LLC (Tesoro)</p>	<p>Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the May 2017 Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project (LARIC)</p>	<p>The consultant provided a Preliminary Draft Addendum, which is undergoing South Coast AQMD staff review.</p>	<p>Environmental Audit, Inc.</p>