



South Coast Air Quality Management District

Virtual Public Meeting for Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project

NOVEMBER 10, 2021
6:00 P.M.

ZOOM WEBINAR LINK: [HTTPS://SCAQMD.ZOOM.US/J/95404102896](https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/95404102896);

ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 954 0410 2896

TELECONFERENCE DIAL-IN: +1 (669) 900-6833

SPANISH (ESPAÑOL) LANGUAGE WEBINAR ID: 963 4776 6450

CHINESE (中文) LANGUAGE WEBINAR ID: 917 4731 7413

Who is the South Coast AQMD?

- Regional air pollution control agency responsible for regulating air emissions, primarily stationary facilities
- Evaluates permit applications and issues permits to ensure operation of equipment and processes meets South Coast AQMD rules and regulations
- Develops rules to address criteria and toxic air contaminant emissions to ensure protection of public health
- Inspects facilities to ensure compliance with permit conditions and applicable rules and regulations



Purpose of the Meeting

- Provide overview of the Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project and process for Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Listen to public comments on the Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project
 - Comments will be considered and responses will be provided when preparing Final EIR

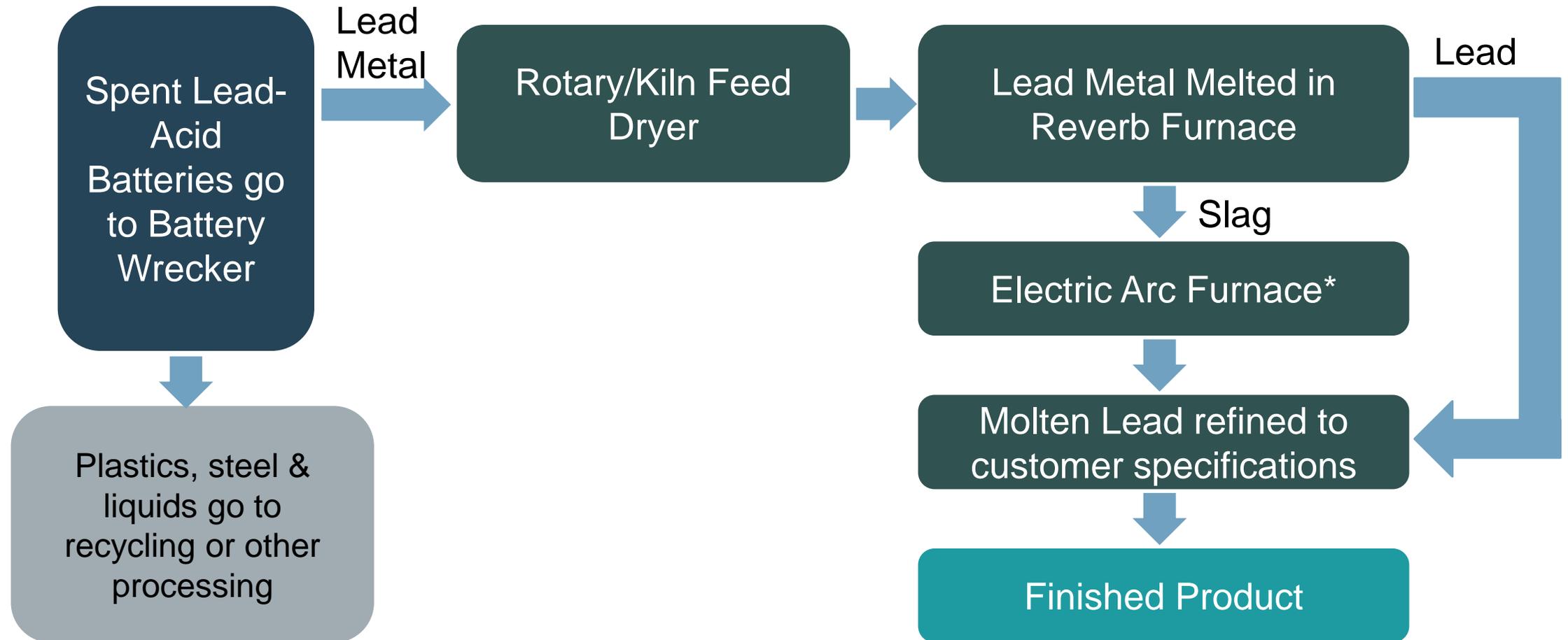


About Quemetco

- Lead-acid battery recycling facility
- Located at 720 S. 7th Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91746
- Operating for 24 hours per day at current location since 1959*
- Receives used lead-acid batteries from cars and other households uses, recovers lead, and sells the finished lead products to customers who utilize lead or lead alloys in their manufacturing processes

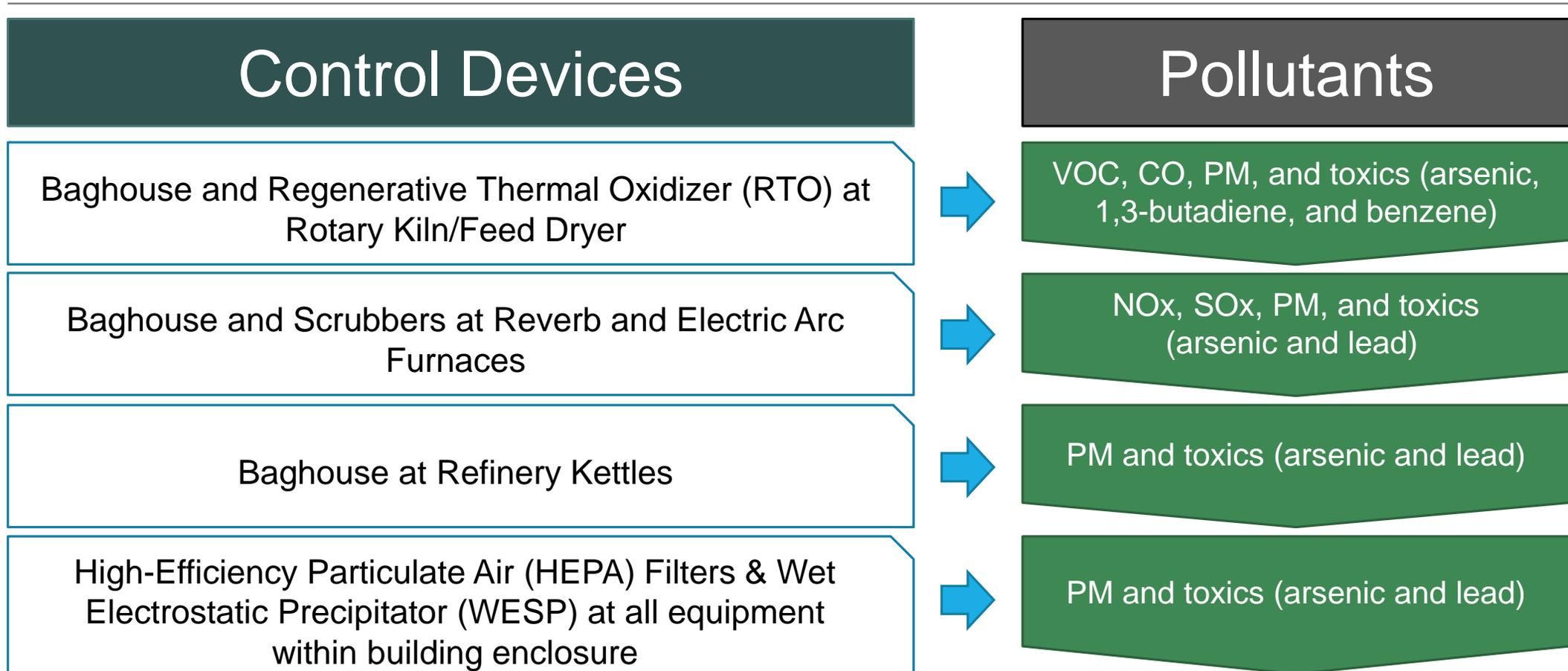
*except the rotary kiln/feed dryer and reverberatory (reverb) furnace which operate 20 hours per day

Brief Process Overview

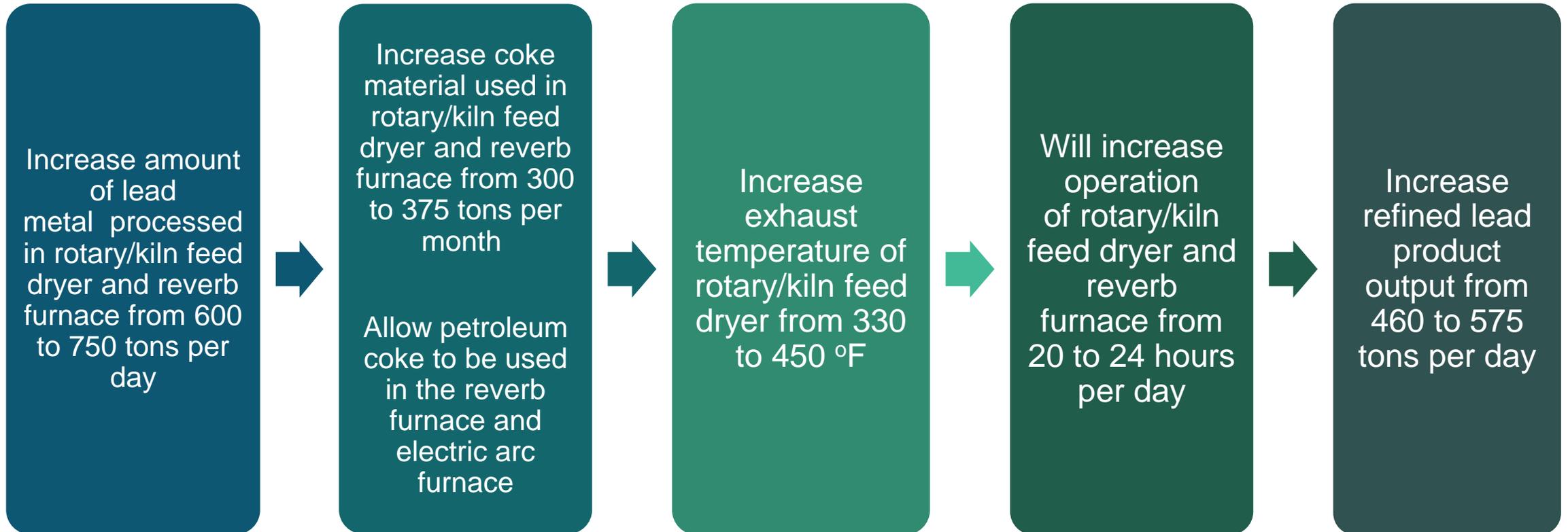


* Remaining analyzed and disposed of as either hazardous or non-hazardous waste

How are Lead and Other Emissions Controlled?



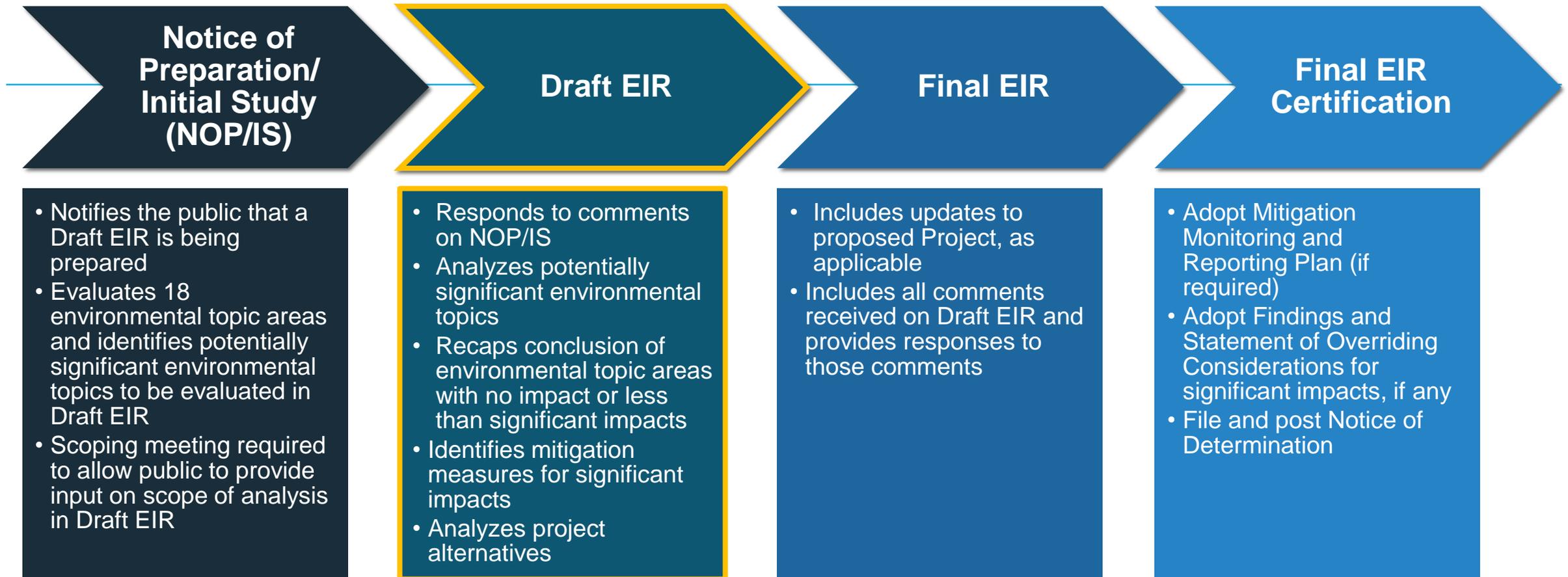
Proposed Quemetco Capacity Upgrade Project



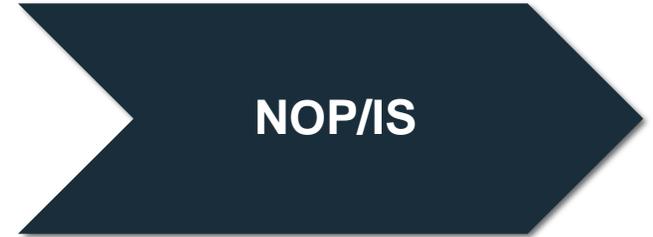
Permit Applications and CEQA

- Quemetco submitted permit applications to the South Coast AQMD in 2013 seeking modifications to their existing permit
- South Coast AQMD identified as Lead Agency responsible for:
 - preparing CEQA documents
 - evaluating the permit applications and preparing a draft permit

CEQA Documents and Process



Public Participation for NOP/IS



Opportunities for Public Participation:

- NOP/IS released for a 56-day public review and comment period from August 31 to October 25, 2018
 - Received 30 comment letters
- Two CEQA Scoping Meetings held:
 - September 13, 2018 – received 125 written comments
 - October 25, 2018 – received 28 oral comments
- Comments received at CEQA Scoping Meetings and on the NOP/IS and responses to comments are included in Appendix B of Draft EIR

Draft EIR for Proposed Project



- South Coast AQMD is Lead Agency for the Draft EIR
 - Trinity Consultants prepared
 - South Coast AQMD staff reviewed
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) identified as Responsible Agency
 - Reviewed Draft EIR
- Released for 61-day public review & comment period from October 14 to December 14, 2021
- Comments made during the public meeting for the Draft EIR will be provided in the Final EIR with responses

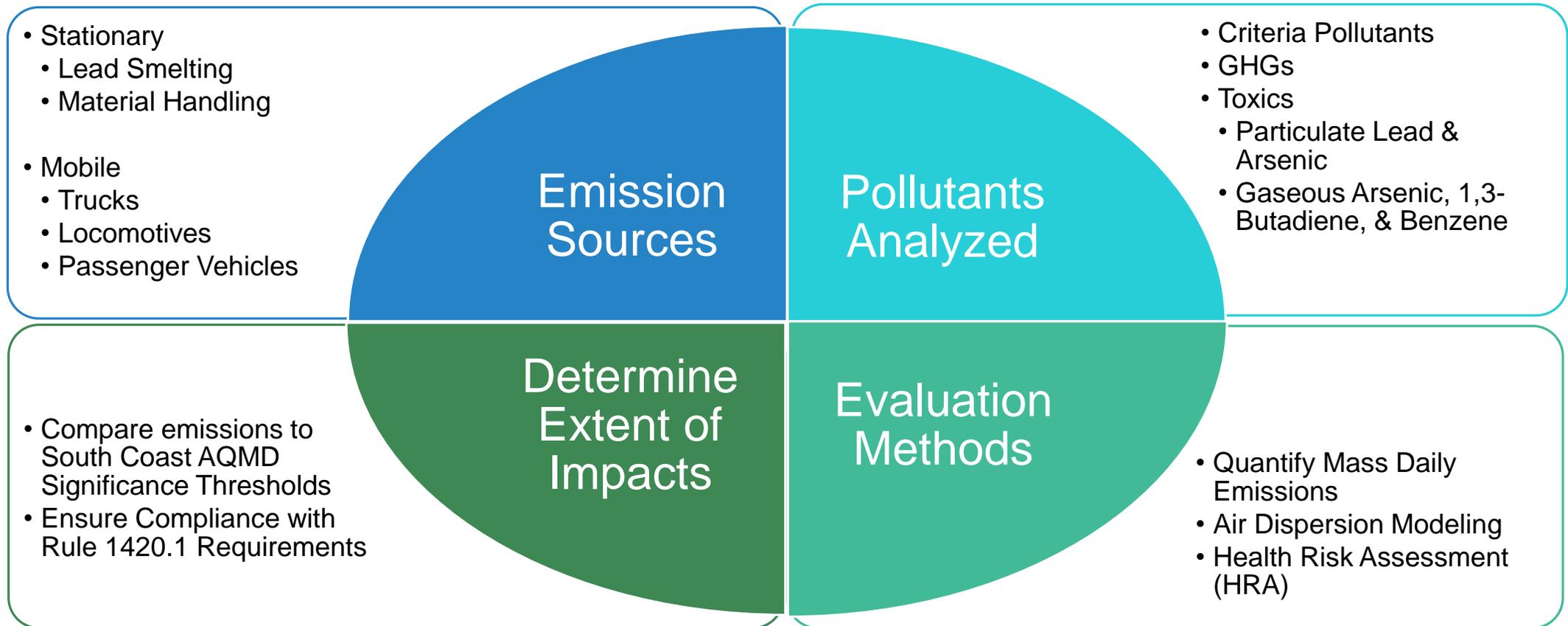
Draft EIR Contents

A blue arrow-shaped graphic pointing to the right, with a yellow outline. The text "Draft EIR" is written in white inside the arrow.

Draft EIR

- Project Description
- Existing Setting (physical conditions)
- Detailed analysis of environmental topic areas identified in NOP/IS as potentially significant
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
 - Energy
 - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Traffic and Transportation*
- Areas of Controversy
- Analysis of feasible alternatives to the proposed Project
- Analysis of cumulative impacts
- Copy of the NOP/IS
- Comments received at CEQA Scoping and responses
- Comments received on the NOP/IS and responses
- Reference materials such as technical studies, calculations, etc.

Comprehensive Air Quality Analysis



Regulatory Safeguard

- Rule 1420.1 applies to large lead-acid battery recycling facilities
- Establishes the strictest requirements for lead-acid battery recycling facilities in the nation
- Comprehensive rule:
 - Addresses four toxic air contaminants: lead, arsenic, 1,3-butadiene, and benzene
 - Establishes point and fugitive emissions
- Quemetco must continue to meet requirements of Rule 1420.1 with the Capacity Upgrade Project

South Coast AQMD Rule 1420.1

Ambient Monitoring



- Four Fenceline Ambient Monitors for Lead and Arsenic
- Ambient lead limit of $0.100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Point Source Requirements



- Lead point source limit of $0.003 \text{ lb}/\text{hour}$
- Arsenic point source limit of $0.00114 \text{ lb}/\text{hour}$

Total Enclosures



- Total enclosures for all lead processing
- Under negative pressure air vented to pollution controls

Housekeeping



- Vacuum sweep three times per day
- Quarterly Roof cleaning

Additional Regulatory Safeguards

AB 2588 Hot Spots Program – Rule 1402

- Annual review of facility-wide toxics emissions
- Requires public notification and risk reduction if health risk exceeds cancer or non-cancer thresholds
- Has an approved Risk Reduction Plan (RRP)
- No changes needed to RRP

On-going Compliance Program

- Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) in-stack monitoring
- Annual source testing lead, arsenic, 1,3-butadiene, and benzene
- Continuous ambient monitoring of lead and arsenic – captures point and fugitive emissions
- Facility inspections
- New monitor for CO emissions

Air Quality Impacts Conclusion

- With air pollution control systems in place:
 - Emissions from would not exceed the South Coast AQMD air quality significance thresholds for criteria air pollutants, GHGs, and toxics
 - Total and incremental health risk impacts would not exceed South Coast AQMD's health impact thresholds for toxic air emissions
 - Lead emissions would be less than the Rule 1420.1 standards

Hazards & the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- Responsible Agency under CEQA
- Provided input for Draft EIR re: Hazards/Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Waste
- Will have review and approval authority for Capacity Upgrade Project
 - Quemetco has not yet submitted an application to DTSC
- Reviewing Quemetco's other application seeking to renew its Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Permit for its current operations and capacities
 - RCRA permit authorizes the treatment and storage of hazardous waste
 - Draft decision expected early 2022
- Questions on DTSC Permitting Process may be directed to Mr. Sam Coe, Project Manager at 916-255-3587 or Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov

Conclusion: Other Impact Areas

Energy

- Less than significant increases in electricity usage

Hydrology/Water Quality

- Less than significant increases in wastewater generated

Hazards/Hazardous Materials

- Less than significant impacts associated with routine transport, use, disposal, or accidental release of hazardous materials

Transportation/Traffic

- Less than significant increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Verification of existing ramp turning radius for truck entering and exiting SR-60 interchange with S. 7th Avenue per CalTrans request

Draft EIR Conclusions

- Project and cumulative impacts were less than significant for all environmental topics
- No mitigation measures required
- Alternatives analysis conducted for informational purposes

Draft EIR Public Review and Comment Period

- Public comment period ends:
December 14, 2021
- Draft EIR can be obtained from the South Coast AQMD:
 - Website at:
<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/research/documents-reports/lead-agency-permit-projects>
 - Public Information Center
 - PICrequests@aqmd.gov;
(909) 396-2039
- Draft EIR can be viewed at:
 - La Puente Library
 - Hacienda Heights Library

Public Commenting Opportunities



Provide Oral Comments at meeting tonight



Email comments to Kevin Ni at KNi@aqmd.gov



Mail comments to Kevin Ni at:
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765



Fax comments to Kevin Ni at
909.396.3982

Permit Application Review

- South Coast AQMD staff evaluated the maximum potential emissions and health risks from the proposed capacity upgrade project
- Evaluation of the permit applications concluded that the proposed capacity upgrade project
 - Will meet all applicable air quality rules and regulations; and
 - Does not exceed health risk levels in Rule 1401 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants
- If South Coast AQMD does not have a basis for denial of the permit applications and the proposed project will comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality requirements, South Coast AQMD will proceed with permit issuance
 - South Coast AQMD prepared a draft permit

Preparation of Final EIR

- After close of Draft EIR public review and comment period, a Final EIR will be prepared which will include:
 - Changes/updates made to the proposed Project after the release of the Draft EIR
 - Respond to comments received relative to the Draft EIR
 - Any comments received during the public comment period which includes comments received at tonight's meeting
 - Close of public comment: December 14, 2021
 - All previous content from the Draft EIR

Next Steps

South Coast AQMD

- Oversee preparation of Final EIR
- Consideration whether to:
 - Certify Final EIR, and
 - Approve Project and Issue Permit

DTSC

- Quemetco to submit application for Capacity Upgrade Project to modify RCRA permit
- Conduct evaluation
- Could rely on Final EIR to comply with CEQA

South Coast AQMD Staff Contacts

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