

NOTICE OF DECISION

To: Office of the Secretary of the
California Natural Resources Agency
General Counsel's Office
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: South Coast Air Quality Management
District (South Coast AQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Subject: Filing of Notice of Decision in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.5(d)(2)(E), CEQA Guidelines Section 15252(b), and South Coast AQMD Rule 110(f)

Project Title: Final Environmental Assessment for Proposed Amended Rule 1178 – Further Reductions of VOC Emissions from Storage Tanks at Petroleum Facilities

State Clearinghouse No: 2023070354 **South Coast AQMD No:** 07192023KN

Lead Agency: South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Lead Agency Contact: Kevin Ni,
kni@aqmd.gov
(909) 396-2462

Date of Certification / Project Approval: September 1, 2023

Project Location: The project, Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1178, regulates certain storage tanks at petroleum facilities including refineries, bulk storage, loading, and oil production facilities which are located within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin, and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin. Physical modifications that may result from implementing PAR 1178 are expected to occur at nine facilities, the majority of which are located within Los Angeles County near the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach while a few are located in San Bernardino county.

Project Description: PAR 1178 applies to owners or operators of any petroleum facility including refineries, bulk storage, loading, and oil production facilities with the following types of storage tanks which are used to store organic liquid and that emit more than 20 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in any reporting year starting with emission inventory year 2000: 1) aboveground storage tanks with capacity equal to or greater than 75,000 liters (19,815 gallons) storing organic liquid with a true vapor pressure (TVP) greater than 0.1 pounds per square inch atmosphere (psia) under actual storage conditions; and 2) storage tanks with a potential for VOC emissions of six tons per year used in crude oil and natural gas production operations.

PAR 1178 establishes more stringent leak detection and repair and control requirements through 1) conducting inspections, including but not limited to weekly optical gas inspections; 2) installing domes and secondary seals; 3) increasing the efficiency of emission control systems; and 4) conducting monitoring, maintenance, recordkeeping, and reporting activities. While there are 30 facilities subject to Rule 1178 requirements, physical modifications to comply with PAR 1178 will

affect nine facilities and is expected to result in the installation of: 1) domes on 59 storage tanks; and 2) roof seals on 24 tanks PAR 1178 is estimated to reduce VOC emissions by 0.82 ton per day.

This is to advise that the South Coast AQMD has certified the Final EA, approved the above-described project, and has made the following determinations:

1. The South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has evaluated the potential environmental effects of the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. The requirements for a Negative Declaration have been triggered pursuant to South Coast AQMD's Certified Regulatory Program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l); codified in South Coast AQMD Rule 110) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, and that a Final EA, a substitute document allowed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15252 and South Coast AQMD's certified regulatory program, was prepared.
3. The Final EA concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
3. Because the Final EA concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of this project. Thus, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15097, was not required or adopted for this project.
4. Because the Final EA concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, Findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and a Statement of Overriding Considerations pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 were also not required or adopted for this project.
5. The South Coast AQMD Governing Board reviewed and considered the Final EA, including comments and responses, and supporting documentation prior to making a decision on the project.

The Final EA, including comments and responses, supporting documentation, and record of project approval may be examined at: South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

Date Received for Filing

Signature:



September 1, 2023

Kevin Ni
Acting Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and
Implementation