



South Coast
AQMD

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Issues Violations to Four Companies and the County of Los Angeles for Elevated Hydrogen Sulfide Levels that Impacted Communities Near the Dominguez Channel

DIAMOND BAR – Yesterday, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued five Notices of Violation (NOVs) to Virgin Scent, Inc. dba Art Naturals, Day to Day Imports, Inc., Liberty Properties Limited Partnership and its parent company, Prologis, Inc., and the County of Los Angeles, following an investigation into elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) emanating from portions of the Dominguez Channel that impacted the City of Carson and surrounding areas.

In September 2021, two companies – Virgin Scent, Inc. dba ArtNaturals and Day to Day Imports, Inc. – stored large quantities of wellness/beauty products at a warehouse located at 16325 S. Avalon Blvd. in Carson. The warehouse is owned by Liberty Properties Limited Partnership and its parent company, Prologis, Inc. On September 30th, a large fire started on the warehouse property, and efforts to extinguish the fire continued over multiple days. Subsequently, chemicals contained in the stored products, including ethanol, passed through the sewer system into the local flood control waterway, the Dominguez Channel. This was followed by the anaerobic decay of organic materials in the channel, which caused elevated levels of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) to be emitted into the air.

On October 3rd, South Coast AQMD began receiving odor complaints and, on October 6th, the agency received over 100 odor complaints in a single day. Inspectors responded to the complaints and traced H₂S-type odors to the Dominguez Channel. The County of Los Angeles is the Responsible Party charged with maintaining the waterway.

H₂S is a colorless and odorous gas that smells like rotten eggs. Most individuals can smell the odor at very low levels, and some may generally experience symptoms such as headaches and nausea. People experiencing symptoms are encouraged to contact their health care providers.

The NOVs allege that the foul-smelling H₂S emissions from the Dominguez Channel caused a public nuisance in violation of the agency's Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700. Since October 3rd, inspectors have responded to over 4,600 odor complaints from residents in Carson, as well as Gardena, Long Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and Wilmington and other parts of L.A. County. At

one point, H2S levels hit almost 7,000 parts per billion—about 230 times higher than the state nuisance standard.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, the company or entity can choose to implement voluntary measures to reduce emissions or otherwise prevent further violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange County, 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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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