



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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## **Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Proposed Disney ABC Studios at the Ranch Project**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the lead agency and should be incorporated into the final environmental impact report (Final EIR) as appropriate.

### **Construction Impacts**

The AQMD staff is concerned about the significant construction related air quality impacts from the proposed project. Specifically, the lead agency determined that the project will exceed the AQMD's CEQA regional significance thresholds for NOx and VOC emissions during construction of the project. As a result, the AQMD staff recommends that pursuant to Section 15126.4 of the CEQA Guidelines the lead agency require the following additional mitigation measures in the Draft EIR.

- Provide temporary traffic controls such as a flag person, during all phases of construction to maintain smooth traffic flow.
- Provide dedicated turn lanes for movement of construction trucks and equipment on- and off-site.
- Improve traffic flow by signal synchronization.
- Require the use of 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks (e.g., material delivery trucks and soil import/export) and if the lead agency determines that 2010 model year or newer diesel trucks cannot be obtained the lead agency shall use trucks that meet EPA 2007 model year NOx emissions requirements.

Further, the lead agency shall replace mitigation measure E.1-5 (MM E.1-5) with the following:

- During project construction, all internal combustion engines/construction, equipment operating on the project site shall meet EPA-Certified Tier 3 emissions standards, or higher according to the following:
  - ✓ Project start, to December 31, 2014: All offroad diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 hp shall meet Tier 3 offroad emissions standards. In addition, all construction equipment shall be outfitted with BACT devices certified by CARB. Any emissions control device used by the contractor shall achieve emissions reductions that are no less than what could be achieved by a Level 3 diesel emissions control strategy for a similarly sized engine as defined by CARB regulations.
  - ✓ Post-January 1, 2015: All offroad diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 hp shall meet the Tier 4 emission standards, where available. In addition, all construction equipment shall be outfitted with BACT devices certified by CARB. Any emissions control device used by the contractor shall achieve emissions reductions that are no less than what could be achieved by a Level 3 diesel emissions control strategy for a similarly sized engine as defined by CARB regulations.
  - ✓ A copy of each unit's certified tier specification, BACT documentation, and CARB or SCAQMD operating permit shall be provided at the time of mobilization of each applicable unit of equipment.
  - ✓ Encourage construction contractors to apply for AQMD "SOON" funds. Incentives could be provided for those construction contractors who apply for AQMD "SOON" funds. The "SOON" program provides funds to accelerate clean up of off-road diesel vehicles, such as heavy duty construction equipment. More information on this program can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/Implementation/SOONProgram.htm>

For additional measures to reduce off-road construction equipment, refer to the mitigation measure tables located at the following website:

[www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM\\_intro.html](http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html).

### **Pyrotechnics**

Lastly, the Draft EIR did not discuss the potential future use of pyrotechnics at this filming location. If pyrotechnics may be used in the future, then emissions from this activity should be analyzed, disclosed, and mitigated to the extent feasible in the CEQA document. Otherwise, a condition should be included that prohibits the use of pyrotechnics at this site.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, AQMD staff requests that the lead agency provide the AQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final EIR. Further, staff is available to work with the lead agency to address these issues and any other questions that may arise. Please contact Dan Garcia, Air Quality Specialist CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304, if you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments.

Sincerely,



Ian MacMillan

Program Supervisor, CEQA Inter-Governmental Review  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

IM:DG

LAC120503-01  
Control Number