

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 (EA) for Proposed Amended Rule 463 – Organic Liquid Storage

State Clearinghouse No: 2024031009

South Coast AQMD No: 03272024JA

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

Lead Agency Contact: Jivar Afshar,
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Date of Certification / Project Approval: June 7, 2024


Project Location: The project applies to certain storage tanks at petroleum facilities including refineries, bulk storage, loading, and oil production facilities located in the South Coast AQMD 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.

Project Description: The project consists of amended Rule 463 which limits volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from any stationary storage tank with a potential for VOC emissions of six tons per year or greater used in crude oil and natural gas production operations, above-ground stationary tanks with a capacity of 19,815 gallons or greater used to store organic liquids, and above-ground tanks with a capacity between 251 and 19,815 gallons used to store gasoline. Amendments to Rule 463 established requirements for: 1) conducting inspections, including but not limited to optical gas inspections every other calendar week; 2) installing domes on external floating roof tanks storing organic liquids with a true vapor pressure of 3.0 pounds per square inch, absolute or greater; 3) installing secondary seals on all floating roof tanks; 4) increasing the efficiency of emission control systems; 5) more stringent seal gap allowances; and 6) conducting monitoring, maintenance, recordkeeping, and reporting activities. Amended Rule 463 will affect approximately 1,600 tanks located at 429 facilities including refineries, bulk storage, loading, and oil production facilities, and is estimated to reduce VOC emissions by 1.65 tons per day. Implementation of amended Rule 463 is expected to require physical modifications that could create secondary adverse environmental impacts relating to the installation of domes on external floating roof tanks and additional secondary seals on internal floating roof tanks.

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. Amended Rule 463, being subject to consideration by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, is a discretionary action, which has the potential for resulting in direct or indirect changes to the environment and, therefore, is considered a “project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). [CEQA Guidelines Section 15378].
2. The South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has evaluated the potential environmental effects of the project pursuant to CEQA.
3. 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.
4. 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 and supporting documentation prior to making a decision on the project.

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

	 Signature: <i>June 7, 2024</i>
Date Received for Filing	Kevin Ni Program Supervisor, CEQA Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation