



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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Rendering Facility in Vernon Ordered to Shut Down for Failing to Comply with Permit Requirements and Reduce Odors

DIAMOND BAR – Yesterday, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Hearing Board ordered Baker Commodities Inc. (“Baker”), an animal rendering facility in Vernon, to stop operations until it is able to comply with air quality rules and permit conditions. The decision was made upon the request of South Coast AQMD and based on the evidence that showed multiple ongoing violations of the agency’s rule that was designed to reduce odors.

The facility must stop all rendering and wastewater operations including, receiving and processing raw material and removing all wastewater from the open-air pit within seven days of the order. Additionally, the facility must wash all exposed surfaces of animal matter at least once a day and provide a timeline within seven days of the order on how it will address and fix all ongoing violations. The facility may not reopen until all operations or equipment required by the order are within either a permanent total enclosure or a closed system.

“The facility has had years to comply with our rules,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s executive officer. “Shutting down the facility is the only acceptable step until proper controls are implemented that will protect the nearby communities that have long been impacted by rendering odors.”

The facility, located at 4020 Bandini Blvd., in Vernon, Calif., converts animal material collected from meat processing plants, supermarkets, and butcher shops into animal feed or other useful products.

Baker has committed multiple violations by failing to keep its facility clean and in good operating condition and not enclosing portions of its facility including a butcher trimmings receiving area and certain wastewater operations including an open-air pit. Additionally, the facility did not properly seal or close other processing areas to minimize leaks and prevent odors from escaping. Enclosures must be completed within certain deadlines after construction permits are approved.

Baker was required to complete its enclosures and/or closed systems by March 9, 2022 and April 22, 2022 which have not been completed to date.

South Coast AQMD continues to conduct odor surveillance near all rendering plants and respond to public complaints. The public can file an odor complaint by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG, on our webpage, or directly from our smartphone app.

More information on South Coast AQMD's ongoing activities related to rendering plants in the City of Vernon can be found [here](#).

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, 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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