



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
(909) 396-2000 • [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 463 – ORGANIC LIQUID STORAGE**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is the Lead Agency and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts from the project identified above pursuant to its certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l), and South Coast AQMD Rule 110). The Draft EA includes a project description and analysis of potential adverse environmental impacts that could be generated from the proposed project. The purpose of this letter, the attached Notice of Completion (NOC), and the Draft EA, is to allow public agencies and the public the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental analysis in the Draft EA.

This letter and the NOC for the Draft EA are not South Coast AQMD applications or forms requiring a response from you. Their purpose is simply to provide information to you on the proposed project. **No action on your part is necessary if the proposed project has no bearing on you or your organization.** The proposed project's description, location, and potential adverse environmental impacts are summarized in the NOC. Information on how to obtain the Draft EA and other relevant documents is also provided in the attached NOC.

The NOC has been filed for posting with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The NOC and Draft EA have also been electronically filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to be posted on their CEQAnet Web Portal which, upon posting, may be accessed via the following weblink: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/search/recent>. In addition, the NOC and Draft EA and other relevant documents have been electronically posted on the South Coast AQMD's webpage which can be accessed via the following weblink: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/research/documents-reports/lead-agency-scaqmd-projects>.

Comments focusing on your area of expertise, your agency's area of jurisdiction, if applicable, or issues relative to the environmental analysis for the proposed project will be accepted during a 30-day public review and comment period beginning March 27, 2024 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2024. Please send any comments relative to the CEQA analysis in the Draft EA to Jivar Afshar via email to [jafshar@aqmd.gov](mailto:jafshar@aqmd.gov), via facsimile to (909) 396-3982, or by mail (c/o PRDI/CEQA) to the address shown above. Please include the name, phone number and email address of the contact person, and the organization name, if applicable. Questions regarding the proposed amended rule language should be directed to Joshua Ewell at (909) 396-2212 or by email to [jewell@aqmd.gov](mailto:jewell@aqmd.gov).

The proposed project will be considered at the Governing Board Meeting (Public Hearing) on June 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. (subject to change). The Public Hearing agenda with details on how the public can participate will be posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting on South Coast AQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>.

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION (NOC) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**To:** County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino; and Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse

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

**Project Title:** Proposed Amended Rule 463 – Organic Liquid Storage

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (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.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Rule 463 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. PAR 463 establishes 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 psia 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. PAR 463 will affect 429 facilities including refineries, bulk storage, loading, and oil production facilities, and is estimated to reduce VOC emissions by 0.43 ton per day. Implementation of PAR 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. The Draft EA did not identify any environmental topic areas that would be significantly adversely affected by PAR 463. Facilities with storage tanks subject to PAR 463 may be identified on lists compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control per Government Code Section 65962.5 but the implementation of PAR 463 will not alter the status of the facilities on the lists.

**Lead Agency:** South Coast AQMD

**Division:** Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation

**The Draft EA is available from South Coast AQMD's website at:**  
<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/research/documents-reports/lead-agency-scaqmd-projects>

**or by calling:** (909) 396-2039  
**or by emailing:** [PICrequests@aqmd.gov](mailto:PICrequests@aqmd.gov)

**PAR 463 and all supporting documentation are available from South Coast AQMD's website at:**  
<https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules/rule-463>

**The NOC is provided to the public through the following:**

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|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles Times (March 27, 2024)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Coast AQMD Mailing List & Interested Parties |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Coast AQMD Website  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Coast AQMD Public Information Center         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Website |  |

**Draft EA Review Period (30 days):** March 27, 2024 to April 26, 2024

**Scheduled Public Meeting Date(s) (subject to change):** The proposed project will be considered at the Governing Board Meeting (Public Hearing) on June 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. (subject to change). The Public Hearing agenda with details on how the public can participate will be posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting on South Coast AQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>.

**Send CEQA Comments to:**

Jivar Afshar

**Phone:**

(909) 396-2040

**Email:**

[jafshar@aqmd.gov](mailto:jafshar@aqmd.gov)

**Fax:**

(909) 396-3982

**Direct Questions on PAR 463 to:**

Joshua Ewell

**Phone:**

(909) 396-2212

**Email:**

[jewell@aqmd.gov](mailto:jewell@aqmd.gov)

**Fax:**

(909) 396-3982

**Date:** March 26, 2024

**Signature:**



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