Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 26 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

FROM: Max Castillo
City of Carson
Community Development
701 East Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft focused Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT NAME: Carson to Paramount Hydrogen Gas Pipeline

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project route would initiate in the City of Carson at an existing Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. hydrogen facility and would terminate in the City of Paramount, California at the World Energy Bio-Fuels Facility. The proposed pipeline would traverse the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, City of Lakewood, and City of Bellflower.

PROJECT CASE #: CUP 1089-18

PROJECT APPLICANT: Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

The City of Carson will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a focused Environmental Impact Report for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

A Scoping Meeting has not been scheduled for this Project at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the convenience of property owners and residents in the project area, comments can be provided via email as detailed below. The Scoping comments should be limited to understanding the proposed project and associated environmental concerns, including potential mitigation measures and possible alternatives to the project. The attached project overview and scope of analysis identified by staff will be used as a starting point for discussion during the scoping meeting, but other environmental concerns may be raised by the public at this meeting.

For current project information, the following page has been established on the City's website: http://ci.carson.ca.us/CommunityDevelopment/HydrogenGas.aspx

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be received at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Max Castillo, Assistant Planner, at the address shown above.

Date: May 19, 2020

Planner: Max Castillo MCastillo@carson.ca.us

Division: Community Development

Telephone: (310) 952-1700 x1317

cc: Clerk of the Board (please post for 30 days)

Encl: Project Overview and Scope of Analysis

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

A. Applicant

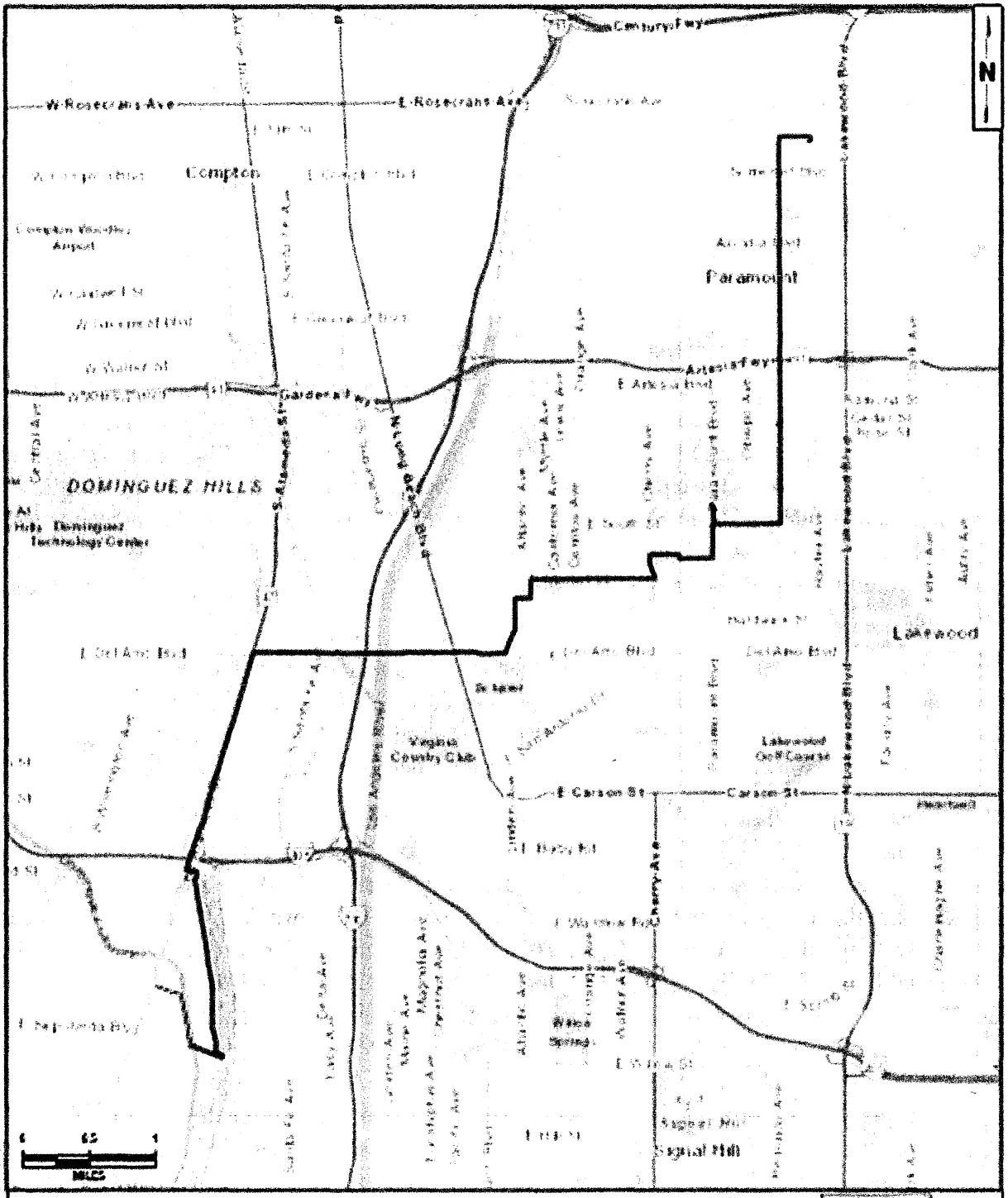
Seth Gottlund, LA Basin Hydrogen Asset Manager
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
4000 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 420, East Tower
Newport Beach, CA 92660

B. Project Location, Current Use, and Surrounding Use

Air Products proposes to utilize an existing 11.5-mile-long series of pipelines plus construct a new 0.5-mile pipeline segment to connect from the Air Products' existing hydrogen facility in the City of Carson to the World Energy Bio-fuels Facility in the City of Paramount, California. The existing 11.5-mile pipeline crosses the cities of Carson, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Lakewood, Bellflower, and Paramount in addition to an unincorporated part of the County of Los Angeles and land owned or controlled by the Port of Los Angeles and the Joint Ports Authority. The 0.5-mile of new pipeline would be located entirely within the City of Carson. Refer to Figure 1-1 for the Project Location.

The proposed Project route would initiate in the City of Carson and would terminate in the City of Paramount. The site of the proposed Project is located within an area of industrial, commercial, and residential land uses. The Project alignment is predominantly within an existing pipeline corridor, and the Project area is generally level and has been modified by urban development.

Most construction activities within the City of Carson would take place on private land either within or near the Air Products Carson Hydrogen Facility. This area is highly industrialized and much of the new pipeline segment would border the western bank of the Dominguez Channel. Segment 2 of the pipeline is surrounded by industrial land as it follows the Union Pacific Railroad within the City of Los Angeles. Segment 3 follows Alameda Street (Highway 47) and is surrounded by single-family residences to the east. Segment 4 follows East Del Amo Boulevard and is surrounded by a residential area to the east as well as land used for industrial purposes. Segment 5 crosses into an industrial area of an unincorporated part of Los Angeles County before crossing the Los Angeles River and under the 710 Freeway. After crossing into the City of Long Beach, the pipeline is surrounded by residential areas. Segment 6 and Segment 7 are located within a mixed-use area within the City of Long Beach; there are residential, commercial, and industrial areas adjacent to the pipeline route. Once Segment 8 crosses into the City of Bellflower, the pipeline is bordered by a residential area. Segment 9 crosses into the City of Paramount with residential and commercial surroundings. The final segment, Segment 10, also extends along residential and commercial areas before reaching an industrial zone at the World Energy Bio-fuels Facility.



padre associates, inc.

CARBON TO PARAMOUNT HYDROGEN PIPELINE PROJECT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

SITE LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 1-1

C: Request/Description

Overview of the Project: The Carson to Paramount Hydrogen Gas Pipeline Project would be constructed and operated by Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (Air Products). The proposed Project would use local union labor, including ARB, Inc., to construct 0.5 miles of new pipeline within the City of Carson and connect this newly constructed segment with 11.5 miles of existing pipeline, expanding Air Products' existing pipeline network, and enabling it to provide means of hydrogen distribution from its existing hydrogen production facilities located in Wilmington and Carson to its customers. Air Products proposes to utilize this pipeline route to connect Air Products with a new customer in the City of Paramount to support the renewable bio-fuel production. Two new pipe connections would be required to connect segments of existing pipelines together along the 11.5-mile length. Air Products would also remove or replace existing manual valves and add an automatic shut-off valve (ASV) at one location along the pipeline route. The Project would eliminate the need for 5 – 7 tanker trucks that currently deliver hydrogen thereby reducing local traffic and improving air quality. The Project would employ approximately 60 contractors for construction (local union workers when feasible), one new full-time job, and would increase City of Carson revenue (utility taxes, franchise fees, etc.) by approximately $60,000 per year. The Project route would initiate in the City of Carson and terminate in the City of Paramount. The Project route would traverse small portions of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, as well as portions of the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, and Bellflower.

World Energy uses hydrogen to produce renewable bio-fuels (diesel and jet) for the transportation market. Refineries have had to increase the amount of hydrogen they use to produce gasoline and other refinery products as demand increases due to the need to produce reformulated fuels. Most of the refiners have chosen to meet this increased demand for hydrogen by purchasing hydrogen gas from a third party such as APCI, who can produce the hydrogen more efficiently. The refineries use hydrogen to produce "clean fuels." Hydrogen is used by the refineries to reduce the level of sulfur and other undesired pollutants in various types of transportation fuels such as gasoline and diesel fuel. The pipeline network would increase the overall reliability of the hydrogen supply, thereby allowing the refineries to maximize production of clean fuels.

Construction and Operation: The proposed construction would begin as soon as practical after all required permits have been issued, estimated to be in calendar year 2020 depending on permit issuance. Approximately five months would be required to complete the construction effort. There will be two active construction areas, from the Air Products Carson Facility to Sepulveda Boulevard to construct 0.5 miles of new pipeline to connect to existing pipeline, and on Paramount Boulevard in Long Beach to connect two existing pipelines. The pipeline system would be built and operated to meet or exceed government safety standards as outlined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192 "Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline". The pipeline would operate at a pressure of 260 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) but would be designed for a Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) of 300 psig. The anticipated flow rate for the pipeline would be approximately four million standard cubic feet per day (4 MMSCFD). One new pipe connection would be required to connect two segments of existing pipelines together. Air Products would also add and replace existing valves along the pipeline route. Ten manual valves

would be removed and two automatic shutoff valves (ASV) would be installed. One ASV would be installed at the Dominguez pumping station and the other at an existing valve box along South Street near Orizaba Avenue; the latter would tie into PPC Line 12 crude 244. In addition, two new actuated valves would be installed at both ends of the pipeline within the Carson and Paramount facilities. The proposed pipeline would utilize existing pipe bridges to cross the three bodies of water intersected by the route: the Dominguez Channel, Compton Creek, and the Los Angeles River.

Safety and Security: To continue compliance with existing regulations, appropriate safety programs would be updated and/or developed and implemented. Air Products personnel are trained in the Incident Command System as well gas release emergency response procedures, and community first responders would be trained in accordance with an existing Emergency Response Plan. The pipeline would be continuously monitored from a control room to detect any leaks and changes in pressure. The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system operators in the Carson/Wilmington and/or CSC (Houston) Control room would be able to automatically actuate the valves in the event of a leak or change in pressure. The pipeline would be routinely patrolled and inspected quarterly at all insulating flanges, valve stations, above-ground piping and cased crossings, in addition to ground level patrol and presence on the pipeline right-of-way. The Carson Facility and the World Energy Facility would have manual block valves at each terminus of the pipeline. The Carson Facility would also be equipped with an automatic de-inventory vent.

D. Required Approvals

Table 1 presents the anticipated permits and approvals required for construction and operation of the proposed Project.

Table 1. List of Anticipated Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval	Regulated Activity	Authority
State of California Agencies			
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Approval	Storm water discharges during Project construction	Clean Water Act Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act
Local Agencies			
City of Carson	Conditional Use Permit, Construction Permit	New use, environmental review, and construction permit	City Code CEQA
City of Carson Public Works Dept.	Encroachment Permit, Addition to Pipeline Franchise Agreement	Work within public right-of-way	City Code
Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Temporary Use and Access	Modifications to existing pipe bridge crossing the Los Angeles River	County Code

Port of Los Angeles	Amendment to Franchise Agreement	Change in pipeline use	City Code
Joint Ports	Amendment to Master Joint Revocable Permit	Change in pipeline use	Joint Powers Authority Charter
City of Long Beach	Amendment to Franchise Agreement/ Construction Permit/ Encroachment Permit	Modification to existing Franchise Agreement, Work within public rights-of-way	City Code
City of Lakewood	Construction Permit	Piping Modification	City Code
City of Paramount	Construction Permit	Pipeline Tie-In	City Code
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate	Emissions associated with construction may require permits.	Clean Air Act
Notes: CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act			

E. Project Background

The purpose of the EIR is to provide information about potential significant physical environmental impacts of the Carson to Paramount Hydrogen Gas Pipeline Project, to identify possible ways to minimize those significant impacts, and to describe and analyze possible alternatives to the proposed project if potential significant impacts are identified. Preparation of an NOP and EIR does not indicate a decision by the City to approve or disapprove the project. However, prior to making any such decision, the City must review and consider the information contained in the EIR.

F. Issue Areas

The environmental analysis for the proposed project will focus on Hazards and Hazardous Materials, but will also include discussion on the following issue areas that were found to have significant but mitigable impacts as part of the Initial Study: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Land Use & Planning. In addition, other issue areas will be discussed along with statutorily required sections and discussion of project alternatives and cumulative impacts. Some refinement to the issues may be required based on comments received during the NOP scoping process. The following section describes each of the technical Chapters of the EIR in further detail. Each specified impact area warrants an objective and systematic discussion that identifies the baseline environmental setting; thresholds of significance; impacts and their severity; and, where the impact is potentially significant, the mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or eliminate the impact.

Air Quality

The Air Quality chapter of the EIR will summarize the regional air quality setting, including climate and topography, existing ambient air quality, regulatory setting, and presence of any sensitive receptors near the Project site. The analysis will include potential impacts from criteria air pollutants, toxic-air contaminants, odor-causing compounds, and consistency of the Project with the regional air quality management plan. Toxic emissions and impacts will be assessed using California Air Resources Board (CARB) models and methods and submittals to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) associated with the Project as appropriate.

The Applicant has prepared an Air Quality analysis and associated materials for the proposed Project. The results of the analysis indicate that the proposed Project is not expected to exceed the SCAQMD Significance Thresholds for construction emissions with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Normal operation of the pipeline is not expected to produce any criteria pollutants; minimal emissions associated with operation of the proposed pipeline would be due to periodic inspections as well as associated vehicle travel. Mitigation measures will be developed in accordance with the current SCAQMD Rules and Regulations, Clean Air Plan, and CEQA Handbook. A mitigation monitoring plan will be developed, and several best management practices will be followed during construction to reduce potential impacts to air quality. Analysis of cumulative impacts will consider future activities at the affected facilities and other projects in the area.

Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resources section of the EIR will discuss the potential impacts to historical, cultural, and archaeological resources, including human remains and historical buildings, from implementation of the proposed Project. This section will also contain a description of the region's historical and cultural ethnography. A records search from the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (SCCIC-CHRIS) did not identify any historical or archaeological resources along the 0.5-mile proposed pipeline in the City of Carson, nor did an intensive archeological survey of the same site. However, four archaeological sites are recorded within 0.25-mile of the Project site. One site, CA-LAN-2682, is a protohistoric habitation site and cemetery approximately 618 feet west of the western end of the Project site. All visible human remains were removed in 1998; however, future excavation may expose additional human remains in any direction from the known burials.

The proposed Project has undergone AB 52 tribal consultation and a series of mitigation measures have been requested as part of that consultation effort. Mitigation measures will be included in this section as appropriate to reduce any potential significant impacts to buried cultural resources to a less than significant level.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the EIR will assess the potential impacts from emissions against the local agency Significance Thresholds (SCAQMD). EMFAC or CalEEMod will be utilized for estimated GHG emissions from vehicles and the CARB factors will be utilized for non-

CO_2 GHG pollutants. The Applicant's Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimates within the Applicant's Air Quality Study indicate that emissions associated with construction of the proposed pipeline are not expected to exceed the SCAQMD Significance Thresholds for GHG. There are minimal emissions associated with normal operation of the pipeline, which would involve periodic inspections and associated vehicle travel. Construction and operation of the proposed pipeline would not conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, such as Assembly Bill 32 or the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Climate Action Plan.

Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset

The main objectives of the Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset analysis are to disclose the following to the public and decision-makers: the potential for serious accidents, exposure to the public, the safety and environmental risks of spill events, and the mitigation measures that could reduce these risks. This analysis will consider the potential for risks using existing available information and Risk of Upset studies provided by the Applicant. Currently, the City of Carson does not have specific risk-based thresholds to determine the significance of an accidental hazardous material release and subsequent impact; therefore, the analysis will use the generally accepted standards currently utilized by the County of Los Angeles, the State of California, and originally developed by the County of Santa Barbara. These thresholds focus on involuntary public exposure to acute risks (i.e., serious injury and fatality) that stem from certain types of activities with significant quantities of hazardous materials. The analysis will focus on evaluating the risk associated with the proposed transportation of hydrogen through the proposed pipeline system.

The results of the Applicant's individual risk analysis indicate that the individual risks would be less than significant. However, there is some question as to the potential impacts associated with societal risk levels, and, based on the results of the risk analysis, the high density residential areas through which the pipeline would pass, the length of the pipeline, and the number of schools located along the route, the societal risk would most likely present significant risk levels and would therefore be potentially significant. Mitigation measures will be proposed, where possible, to reduce any potentially significant impacts to a level of insignificance.

Land Use and Planning

The Land Use and Planning chapter of the EIR will evaluate the consistency of the proposed Project with governing land use plans and policies, as well as the Project's compatibility with surrounding land uses, both existing and proposed. The proposed pipeline route would primarily extend within established utility routes utilizing private corridors and public roadways, and all areas of construction are zoned for industrial use. The proposed Project would be consistent with the zoning and existing land uses in the area. Construction and operation of the pipeline would not conflict with general plan designation, zoning, or conservation plans.

Project Alternatives

Alternatives will be designed to avoid and/or substantially reduce any impacts that cannot otherwise be mitigated to a level below significance. At this time, Hazardous Materials/Risk of

Upset is considered the primary issue area that may need to be addressed. This analysis will consider the No Project Alternative, and other alternatives found to be appropriate through the CEQA process. The alternatives discussion will include an analysis of environmental impacts of each alternative considered, along with a comparative analysis (matrix) to distinguish the relative effects of each alternative and its relationship to Project objectives. The alternatives analysis will also identify the "environmentally superior alternative" from among the alternatives.