

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Governor's Office of Planning and Research - State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth St, Suite 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502
and
County Clerk, Dean Logan
County of Los Angeles
12400 E Imperial Hwy, Room 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

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

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(i)

Project Title: AltAir Renewable Fuels Conversion Project

State Clearinghouse No: 2020069013

Project Applicant: AltAir Paramount LLC, (South Coast AQMD Facility ID Number 187165)

Project Location: 14700 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723

Lead Agency: City of Paramount
16400 Colorado Avenue
Paramount, CA 90723

Lead Agency Contact: John Carver,
(562) 220-2036

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

Responsible Agency Contact: Barbara Radlein,
(909) 396-2716

Date of Project Approval: September 26, 2022

Project Description: The City of Paramount, as the Lead Agency, for the AltAir Renewable Fuels Conversion Project (Project), prepared and certified the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for Conditional Use Permit No. 757 – AltAir Renewable Fuels Conversion Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of their April 11, 2022 approval of the project. The Final SEIR analyzed the complete conversion of the Paramount crude oil refinery into a renewable fuels production facility, eliminating the refining of crude oil. The Project proposes facility modifications which include a new Pretreat Unit, modifications to the existing Renewable Fuels Unit A, a new Renewable Fuels Unit B, a new Hydrogen Generation Unit, a new Hydrogen Recovery Unit, a new Propane Recovery Unit, upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment system, a new Hydrogen Sulfide Recovery Unit, a second Sour Water Stripper, a new flare, modifications to the truck and rail loading/unloading racks, and new pipelines

within the refinery. Some existing tanks would be upgraded/repaired and permitted to handle different products (e.g., non-edible vegetable oils and beef tallow). The Project would also include utilizing two existing 55,000-barrel storage tanks at the Lakewood Tank Farm, and would also relocate several buildings on-site and provide temporary buildings for the demolition and construction process. A South Coast AQMD Rule 1166 Site Specific VOC-Contaminated Soil Mitigation Plan is included to address air quality impacts during construction.

The City of Paramount adopted Findings, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations, as set forth in the City of Paramount City Council's Resolution No. 22:021 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 757 Amendment and Resolution No. 22:022 Zone Variance No. 409 for the project.

This is to advise that the South Coast AQMD, as the Responsible Agency, has approved the Project and made the following determinations:

1. The South Coast AQMD has reviewed and considered the Final SEIR (SCH Number 2020069013) for the AltAir Renewable Fuels Conversion Project certified by the City of Paramount.
2. The South Coast AQMD, after considering the Final SEIR (SCH Number 2020069013), the Findings, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by the City of Paramount, adopted its own findings concerning significant impacts identified in the Final SEIR (SCH Number 2020069013) associated with South Coast AQMD's approvals.
3. The Final SEIR identified significant aesthetic impacts associated with lighting, and such impacts could be associated with construction related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant aesthetics impacts to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measure A-4a is within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and has been adopted by that other agency. Since the Final SEIR concluded less than significant aesthetics impacts after mitigation is applied, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are required.
4. The Final SEIR identified significant air quality impacts associated with construction and operation activities which would exceed South Coast AQMD air quality significance thresholds, and such impacts could be associated with construction and operations related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. As a responsible agency for the Project, the South Coast AQMD participated in the preparation and review of the Draft SEIR relative to the air quality, greenhouse gas, and health risk analyses, including the development and identification of feasible mitigation measures specific to the topic of air quality. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant air quality impacts, but the impacts remain significant and unavoidable. Mitigation Measures AQ-1a, AQ-2a, and AQ-2b are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and have been adopted by those other agencies. Because the Final SEIR included all of the identified feasible air quality mitigation measures, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional feasible mitigation measures are identified that would further reduce the remaining significant and unavoidable air quality impacts to less than significant levels.

5. The Final SEIR identified significant air quality impacts associated with operation activities which could be inconsistent with South Coast AQMD plans and policies without monitoring and enforcement conducted by South Coast AQMD. Such impacts could be associated with operations related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant air quality impacts to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measure AQ-5a is within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the South Coast AQMD and another public agency. Permit conditions have been incorporated into the South Coast AQMD Title V permit for the facility, and the mitigation measure has been adopted by that other agency. Since the Final SEIR concluded less than significant operational air quality impacts after mitigation is applied, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are required.
6. The Final SEIR identified significant hazardous materials impacts associated with transporting natural gas by new pipeline, and other hazardous materials by marine vessels, and such impacts could be associated with operation activities related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. Because of extensive state and federal requirements applicable to new (and existing) natural gas pipelines and the extensive regulation of ports and shipping, no feasible mitigation measures have been identified that would go above and beyond all of the existing regulatory requirements for pipelines and marine operations which are expected to be implemented and enforced. South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are feasible that would reduce the significant hazard impacts.
7. The Final SEIR identified significant noise and vibration impacts associated with construction activities, and such impacts could be associated with construction related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant noise and vibration impacts to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measures N-1a and N-1b are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and have been adopted by those other agencies. Since the Final SEIR concluded less than significant noise and vibration impacts after mitigation is applied, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are required.
8. The Final SEIR identified significant noise and vibration impacts associated with operation activities, and such impacts could be associated with operations related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant noise and vibration impacts, but the impacts remain significant and unavoidable. Mitigation Measures N-2a, N-2b, and N-2c are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and have been adopted by those other agencies. South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are feasible that would reduce the significant noise and vibration impacts during operation.
9. The Final SEIR identified significant transportation and circulation impacts associated with operation activities, and such impacts could be associated with operations related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant transportation and circulation impacts to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measures T-1a and T-3a are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and have been adopted by those other agencies. Since the Final SEIR concluded less than significant transportation and circulation impacts after mitigation is applied, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are required.

- 10. The Final SEIR identified significant tribal cultural resources impacts associated with construction activities, and such impacts could be associated with construction related to equipment permitted by the South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD made a finding that changes have been required or incorporated into the Project which reduce the significant tribal cultural resources impacts to less than significant levels. Mitigation Measures TC-1a, TC-1b, and TC-3a are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and have been adopted by those other agencies. Since the Final SEIR concluded less than significant tribal cultural resources impacts after mitigation is applied, South Coast AQMD made a finding that no additional mitigation measures are required.
- 11. Factual support for the South Coast AQMD’s findings is found within the following documents for AltAir Paramount LLC’s AltAir Renewable Fuels Conversion Project: a) the Final SEIR, which analyzed the entirety of the Project as described in the Project Description, plus the Findings, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations as adopted by the City of Paramount; b) the Rule 1166 Site Specific VOC-Contaminated Soil Mitigation Plan (Application Number (A/N) 630604 which was analyzed in the Final SEIR and approved by South Coast AQMD on June 17, 2022); c) applications submitted relative to the Renewable Fuels Unit A Upgrade which were analyzed in the Final SEIR (A/Ns 624740-41, 624744, 626337, 633353-54, 633580-81); and d) Supporting Information for Responsible Agency Findings.
- 12. The South Coast AQMD, having made the above findings has determined that the Significant Title V permit revisions for equipment associated with the Project should be issued under the terms and conditions specified herein.
- 13. These Responsible Agency determinations for the Project reflect the independent judgment of the South Coast AQMD.
- 14. The Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Permitting is the custodian of documents which constitute the record of proceedings regarding the South Coast AQMD’s review and consideration of the Final SEIR and approval of the Significant Title V permit revisions, which are located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

The Significant Title V Permit Revision, which incorporates the modifications described in the Project Description, the referenced CEQA documents, and supporting materials prepared by the City of Paramount, supporting documentation provided by the applicant, and record of project approval may be examined at South Coast AQMD located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature:



September 27, 2022

Barbara Radlein
 Program Supervisor, CEQA
 Planning, Rule Development, and
 Implementation