

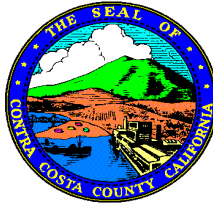
**Department of  
Conservation and  
Development**

30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone:1-855-323-2626

August 5, 2024

**Contra  
Costa  
County**



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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A  
DRAFT REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
MARATHON MARTINEZ RENEWABLE FUELS PROJECT**

**State Clearinghouse# 2021020289**

**County File No. CDLP20-02046**

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the “Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970” as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Community Development Division of the Department of Conservation and Development of Contra Costa County has prepared a Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report for the following project:

**LEAD AGENCY:** Contra Costa County, Department of Conservation and Development (925) 655-2872  
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

**PROJECT TITLE:** Marathon Martinez Refinery Renewable Fuels Project

**APPLICANT:** Marathon Petroleum Corporation  
Attn: Amber Larsen, Ph. (925) 370-3279  
150 Solano Way  
Martinez, CA 94553

**LOCATION:** The Marathon Martinez Refinery is located at 150 Solano Way, Martinez, California. The site is situated on the Carquinez Strait in Contra Costa County. The Refinery is located 3.25 miles east of downtown Martinez along Solano Way between Waterfront Road and Monsanto Way. Roadway access to the Refinery is provided from the south via gated entrance on Solano Way and from the west via gated entrance on Waterfront Road.

The project area is approximately 2,000 acres owned by Marathon. Of these 2,000 acres, approximately 1,130 acres are currently developed for oil and gas refining operations, including ancillary support facilities such as administrative offices, internal roadways and parking lots. The remaining, approximately 870 acres includes undeveloped marshlands and grasslands. Mt. Diablo Creek and Seal Creek flow through the undeveloped areas on the eastern side of the site.

Approximately 76 acres at the southern end of the Project site is developed with a complex of recreational baseball, softball and soccer fields that are used by local sports clubs and teams but are part of the property owned by Marathon.

The Refinery is situated east of Pacheco Creek, on the southern shore of Suisun Bay. Suisun Bay is connected to San Pablo Bay via the Carquinez Strait, a narrow, 12-mile-long band of water that extends from the Benicia-Martinez Bridge westward to Mare Island. The Marathon Martinez Refinery has marine access through two marine oil terminals (MOTs) on Suisun Bay and the Carquinez Strait, namely the Avon MOT and Amorco MOT. The Avon MOT and Amorco MOT are located approximately 0.5 mile north of the Refinery and approximately 2.5 miles west of the Refinery, respectively. The Avon MOT is located on approximately 13.3 acres of leased sovereign land and the Amorco MOT is located on approximately 14.3 acres of leased sovereign land.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In June 2022, a lawsuit was filed in the Contra Costa County Superior Court challenging the certification of the 2022 EIR and the approval of the Project. (Communities for a Better Environment, et al., v. County of Contra Costa, et al., Contra Costa County Superior Court Case No. N22-1080.) On July 21, 2023, the Superior Court, the Honorable Edward G. Weil presiding, issued a Statement of Decision in which the Superior Court concluded that the 2022 EIR was adequate on all counts, except in its discussion and deferral of odor mitigation (refer to Appendix A and discussion below). On August 23, 2023, the Superior Court entered judgment and issued a peremptory writ of mandate to the County to partially decertify the 2022 EIR and remanding the matter to the County for reconsideration of the odor mitigation measures only. This Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) responds to the decision by the Court.

The Superior Court decision identified one specific issue to be remanded to the County for further consideration in compliance with CEQA:

- Reconsider the mitigation measures for the Project's odor impacts.

Section 3.3, Air Quality of this REIR, provides new information regarding the Project's odor mitigation that replaces Section 3.3, Air Quality of the 2022 EIR as directed by the Superior Court.

The Superior Court decision did not invalidate any aspect of the 2022 EIR except for the odor mitigation measures. The County has prepared a REIR to address the one issue identified by the Court and to conduct further environmental review in compliance with CEQA as directed by the Superior Court. Consistent with the Superior Court decision, the REIR need only address the issue identified in the decision (i.e., reconsider the mitigation measures for the Project's odor impacts) as necessary to achieve compliance with CEQA. Except for the one issue specified in the Statement of Decision, the remainder of the 2022 EIR previously prepared and certified by the County was either not challenged or was found by the Court to be in compliance with CEQA, and therefore remains valid. The Final 2022 EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2021020289), to the extent it does not conflict with the additional information provided in the Draft REIR, is incorporated herein by reference. As required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(g), revisions made to the 2022 EIR are identified by strike through for deleted text and double underline for new text.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed Project would repurpose the Refinery for production of fuels from renewable sources rather than from crude oil. Some existing Refinery equipment would be altered or replaced, and additional new equipment units and tanks would be installed, to facilitate production of fuels from renewable feedstock.

Crude oil processing equipment that cannot be repurposed for processing of renewable feedstock would be shut down and removed from the Refinery based on an event-based decommissioning plan. Upon completion of facility changes, the Refinery is anticipated to process approximately 48,000 bpd of fresh renewable feeds and would produce renewable diesel fuel, renewable propane, renewable naphtha, and potentially, renewable aviation fuel. Initially, product from the Refinery would be distributed by truck to the Bay Area as well as Central and Northern California. Future regulatory changes may allow the facility to utilize existing petroleum-based product pipelines. Product would also be transported to destinations outside of the Bay Area by ship via the Avon MOT and Amorco MOT, located approximately 0.5 mile north of the Refinery and approximately 2.5 miles west of the Refinery, respectively. Both terminals would undergo modifications to facilitate receipt of renewable feedstocks and distribution of renewable fuels associated with the proposed Project. Refined petroleum products would continue to be received, stored and distributed through the Project Site but would not be further processed at the facility.

### **SITE AND AREA DESCRIPTION:**

The project area is approximately 2,000 acres owned by Marathon. Of these 2,000 acres, approximately 1,130 acres are currently developed for oil and gas refining operations, including ancillary support facilities such as administrative offices, internal roadways and parking lots.

The Santa Maria Site is surrounded by a buffer area of open space grassland on most sides. To the north and east are residential communities mixed with heavier commercial uses, such as stockyards and truck storage areas. To the south are agricultural fields and to the west is an open space area that transitions into dunes towards the Pacific Ocean. While there is development in the area, it remains largely dominated by open space with mesa and dune habitats and agricultural fields. Highway 1 skirts around the Santa Maria Site to the north, and moves slightly inland, perpendicular to the coast, and then to the east as it turns back and runs parallel to the coast.

The Avon MOT is located on approximately 13.3 acres of leased sovereign land in the lower Suisun Bay, approximately 1.75 miles east of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, in unincorporated Contra Costa County. The Amorco MOT is located on approximately 14.3 acres of leased sovereign land, approximately 0.6 miles west of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge in the city of Martinez. Lease agreements for both MOTs are managed by the California State Lands Commission.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT:**

The EIR for the Project identified significant impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to less-than-significant levels with implementation of identified mitigation measures. These significant and unavoidable impacts include marine biological resources, hazards, and hydrology and water quality related to marine vessel accidents, and air quality related to rail and vessel emissions outside the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin. The EIR also identifies potentially significant impacts related to: construction-related air emissions; odor; marine and avian biological resources (non-spill related); cultural resources; seismicity; hazards; and tribal cultural resources. However, mitigation measures are identified for these impacts that ensure the Project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

### **WHERE TO REVIEW THE DRAFT REIR:**

During the 45-day review period, the Draft REIR is available at the following locations:

- County website: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/CEQA-Notifications>

- Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development located at 30 Muir Road Martinez, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday.
- Pleasant Hill Library, 2 Monticello Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA
- Rodeo Library, 220 Pacific Avenue, Rodeo, CA
- San Pablo Library, 13751 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo, CA
- Crockett Library, 991 Loring Avenue, Crockett, CA

Any sources of information referenced in the Draft REIR can be provided upon request by contacting the project planner.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(2), reviewers are hereby notified that comments should be limited to the revised chapters or sections of this Draft REIR. The content of this Draft REIR provides sufficient detail and clarity such that the public and decision makers can make an informed decision regarding the adequacy of the issues discussed in this REIR. The County will only prepare written responses to comments received regarding the contents of the REIR. Responses to all comments received during the review period will be provided in a separate document.

Consistent with Section 15205 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft REIR for the Project is subject to a public review period. Section 21091(e) of the PRC specifies if an EIR is submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review, the review period shall be a minimum of 45-days.

The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document will begin on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024**, and extends to **Friday, September 20, 2024, until 4:00 P.M.** Any comments should be in writing and submitted to the following address:

**Joseph Lawlor, Project Planner  
Community Development Division  
Contra Costa County, Department of Conservation and Development  
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553**

**OR emailed to [joseph.lawlor@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:joseph.lawlor@dcd.cccounty.us)**

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Lawlor Jr, AICP  
Project Planner  
(925) 655-2872  
[joseph.lawlor@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:joseph.lawlor@dcd.cccounty.us)

cc: County Clerk’s Office (2 copies)  
Adjacent Occupants and Property Owners  
Notification List  
attach: Site Maps