

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: Closure Plan for Closure of Pond 7 at Martinez Refining Company LLC

Project Location: 3485 Pacheco Boulevard, Martinez, CA 94553

County: Contra Costa

Project Applicant: Martinez Refining Company LLC

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Other (Closure and Closure Plan)

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approves the updated Closure Plan for closing Pond 7 within the Martinez Refinery for Martinez Refining Company LLC (MRC) located at 3485 Pacheco Boulevard in Martinez, California.

MRC will be required to start closing Pond 7 in accordance with the updated Closure Plan. Any changes to the long-term management and care of any post closure activities may require future discretionary actions and/or approvals by DTSC.

Background: MRC is an approximately 1,000-acre oil refinery complex located on the southern shore of the Carquinez Strait in Contra Costa, that manufactures petroleum products such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, and other industrial fuels. The Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) is an approximately 11.4-acre facility located in the northwest portion of the refinery. The ETP includes various treatment processes, tanks, and open surface impoundments (referred to as “ponds”). Pond 7 is a 1.4-acre unlined surface impoundment with a capacity of 3.8 million gallons located in the eastern portion of ETP-1. From 1970 through 1996, Pond 7 was permitted to treat all process wastewaters generated at the refinery, which included benzene-laden wastewaters at concentrations above the RCRA hazardous waste limit. Since 1996, only non-hazardous wastewater has been processed in Pond 7.

Pond 7 has continued to receive non-hazardous wastewater under a Delay of Closure, issued by DTSC in August 2003, due to insufficient capacity of the ETP-2 and ETP-3 Biotreater systems. A Denial of Permit Renewal Application for Delay of Closure of Pond 7 was issued by DTSC in 2023

due to indications that seepage has been occurring from the pond, which poses a threat to groundwater. MRC is constructing an ETP-4 Biotreater to assist in the replacement of Pond 7.

Project Activities: Objectives of the Pond 7 closure include closing Pond 7 by demolition and decontamination of selected equipment and structures within the pond; removal of pond residuals (i.e., process water, pond sediment, and potentially impacted underlying soil) for off-site disposal; and restoring the site for future industrial uses by backfilling with clean material.

MRC seeks to close Pond 7 in a manner that minimizes the need for further maintenance; and controls, minimizes, or eliminates, to the extent necessary to protect human health and the environment, post-closure escape of hazardous waste, hazardous constituents, leachate, contaminated rainfall or runoff, or waste decomposition products to the ground or surface waters or to the atmosphere.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Martinez Refining Company LLC

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: [CCR Title 14 Sec. 15308]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: DTSC has determined none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to this project, as described in Public Resources Code Section 21084(c), (d), and (e), and 14 CCR Section 15300.2. The closure of Pond 7 at MRC is consistent with the actions taken by a regulatory agency, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment by properly storing hazardous waste.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/

Contact Person

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Hazardous Substances Engineer

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Approver's Signature:

Date:

Ryan W Batty

February 7, 2024

Approver's Name

Approver's Title

Approver's Phone Number

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