

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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July 29, 2021

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Co/Rt/Pm: MULT/VAR/VAR

Jacob Finkle, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Draft Regulation 13: Climate Pollutants, Rule 5: Petroleum Refinery Hydrogen Plants — Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Jacob Finkle:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Regulation 13: Climate Pollutants, Rule 5: Petroleum Refinery Hydrogen Plants (Draft Rule 13-5) project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the June 2021 NOP.

Project Understanding

Draft Rule 13-5 proposes to limit the amount of vented total organic compounds emitted from hydrogen production, hydrogen carrying systems, and hydrogen end users. As part of ensuring compliance with Draft Rule 13-5, the Valero Benicia Refinery and the PBF Martinez Refinery, located along I-680 near the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, would require the installation of additional gas flare systems.

Aesthetics

As part of the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) in the DEIR, please include visual simulations of the proposed flare system improvements. Simulated public views from the freeways are appropriate for this analysis.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Llisel Ayon at Llisel.Ayon@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse