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California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: **Contra Costa County**
Clerk Recorder's Office
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

FROM: **Bay Area Air District**
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA § 21152(b) AND CEQA GUIDELINES § 15062.

PROJECT TITLE: MARTINEZ REFINING COMPANY, LLC (MRC) – Issuance of an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate to alter S-1426 Catalytic Cracking Unit, S-1427 Catalytic Gas Plant, Carbon Monoxide Boilers S-1507, S-1509, and S-1512, and F66 Preheater S-1510; (Air District Application 698127).

Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Bay Area Air District (Air District), 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; Samuel Dennis, Senior Air Quality Engineer, Telephone: (415) 749-4689, Email: sdennis@baaqmd.gov

Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project: Martinez Refining Company, LLC.

Project Applicant Mailing Address: 3485 Pacheco Boulevard, Martinez, CA 94553.

Project Applicant Contact Person: Kayla Thomas, Environmental Manager, Martinez Refining Company, LLC; Telephone: (925) 313-5516; Email: kayla.thomas@pbfenergy.com

Project Location: 3485 Pacheco Boulevard, Martinez, CA 94553, Contra Costa County. Nearest Cross Street: Wygal Drive.

Project Description:
This permit action was to issue an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for the alteration of the following equipment to improve the overall reliability and reduce emissions due to maintenance and operational improvements:

S-1426 CP Catalytic Cracking Unit (CCU)
79,500 barrels of gross feed per day; 25,421,700 barrels of gross feed per year
Gross feed is the sum total of gas oil feed + rerun feed + slurry recycle
CCU Regenerator carbon monoxide (CO) emissions abated by carbon monoxide boilers (COBs) S-1507, 1509, 1512

S-1427 CP Catalytic Gas Plant (CGP)
Located downstream of CCU and constrained by capacity of downstream relief valve

S-1507 UTIL Carbon Monoxide Boiler 1
Maximum Operating Rate listed in Title V permit:
6,125 MMBtu/day (HHV); 2,235,625 MMBtu/year (HHV)
Located downstream of CCU and abates CCU Regenerator CO emissions

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Abated by:

A-12 Electrostatic Precipitator #1
Research Cottrell, GO-3101, 317,000 ACFM
Located downstream of CCU and COB 1 and venting to atmosphere from emission point P-26

S-1509 UTIL Carbon Monoxide Boiler 2
Maximum Operating Rate listed in Title V permit:
6,125 MMBtu/day (HHV); 2,235,625 MMBtu/year (HHV)
Located downstream of CCU and abates CCU Regenerator CO emissions

Abated by:

A-13 Electrostatic Precipitator #2
Research Cottrell, GO-3101, 317,000 ACFM
Located downstream of CCU and COB 2 and venting to atmosphere from emission point P-27

S-1510 CP F-66 CCU Preheater
Maximum Operating Rate:
4,286 MMBtu/day (HHV); 1,077,600 MMBtu/year (HHV)
Located upstream of and preheats feed for CCU

S-1512 UTIL Carbon Monoxide (CO) Boiler 3
Maximum Operating Rate listed in Title V permit:
6,125 MMBtu/day (HHV); 2,235,625 MMBtu/year (HHV)
Located downstream of CCU and abates CCU Regenerator CO emissions

Abated by:

A-14 Electrostatic Precipitator #3
Research Cottrell, GO-3101, 317,000 ACFM
Located downstream of CCU and COB 3 and venting to atmosphere from emission point P-28

MRC has proposed the following maintenance and operational improvements to the CCU (S-1426), CGP (S-1427), and COBs (S-1507, S-1509, and S-1512):

1. CCU Regenerator Upgrades: Replacement of the regenerator column's air grid and cyclones, as well as the addition of a steam quench system.

2. CGP Wet Gas Compressor Upgrades: Replacement of couplings, diaphragms, and rotor for compressor J-125, along with a replacement of the TB-152 steam turbine which drives the compressor, and new fugitive components in non-urea service.

3. Improvements to the COB Urea Injection system: Installation of a new pump for the system, moving the point of urea injection, and new fugitive components in urea service.

Emissions from S-1426 are routed to the COBs S-1507, S-1509, and S-1512, which are abated by the electrostatic precipitators A-12, A-13, and A-14, respectively.

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Finding of Exemption:

The Air District has determined that the issuance of this Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate is categorically exempt from CEQA as follows:

- The Air District's evaluation is not subject to CEQA because it is a ministerial action (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a)) conducted using the fixed standards and objective measurements in the Air District's rules and regulations.
- The project is categorically exempt because it involves no expansion of use beyond that previously existing at the time of the Air District's CEQA determination. (CEQA Guidelines § 15301).
- The project is categorically exempt because it involves replacing existing equipment with the same purpose and capacity (CEQA Guidelines § 15302).

Basis for Exemption:

This permit application is not subject to CEQA because the Air District's evaluation is a ministerial action (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a)) conducted using the fixed standards and objective measures in the Air District's rules and regulations. Also, the permit application did not trigger Best Available Control Technology (BACT) or Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (TBACT).

Additionally, the Air District's permit action is exempt because it permits a minor alteration of an existing facility and does not authorize any expansion of the existing S-1426 or S-1427 use, nor the other devices associated with them (S-1510, S-1507, S-1509, and S-1512). There will be no increase in the quantity of feed processed at the CCU. Because there will be no expansion in use at the related project equipment, the project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines § 15301.

The Air District's permit action is also exempt because it involves the replacement of existing internal parts, such as the replacement of the air grid and cyclones as S-1426, for the same purpose and without an increase in capacity. Accordingly, these replacements are exempt under CEQA Guidelines § 15302.

Further, based on the review of the permit application materials, including Appendix H (environmental information form), the project will not result in any additional or different environmental impacts beyond what is already entailed in the applicant's existing use of the source. In making the determination that this application is categorically exempt: 1) the Air District reviewed the permit application materials which indicate that there is no potential for a significant adverse environmental impact from the project; 2) a formal health risk assessment was approved by the Air District; and 3) the Air District determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, or due to cumulative impacts from successive projects of the same type in the same place.

Fred Tanaka for

Pamela J. Leong
Director of Engineering
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

January 6, 2026
Date