

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

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

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21080(b)(1) AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15268(a).**

**Project Title: MARTINEZ REFINING COMPANY, LLC – Authority to Construct for an Alteration of Existing Source 1449, Hydrocracking Unit (Air District Application 740505).**

**Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency):** Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; Contact Person: Kevin Perez, Senior Air Quality Engineer, Telephone: (415) 749-8643, Email: kperez@baaqmd.gov

**Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project:** Martinez Refining Company LLC (MRC).

**Project Applicant Mailing Address:** 3485 Pacheco Boulevard, Martinez, Contra Costa County, CA 94553.

**Project Applicant Contact Person:** Rina Mansingh, Environmental Manager, Martinez Refining Company LLC; Telephone: (925) 313-3765; Email: Rina.Mansingh@pbfenergy.com

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

**Project Description:**

This permit action issues an Authority to Construct for an alteration. MRC has applied to replace a high-pressure, 3-phase separator vessel that is part of the hydrocracking unit (Source 1449) with a new vessel with the same purpose and capacity. The separator vessel will be replaced with a new vessel with the same dimensions, design temperature, design pressure, and hydraulic capacity. The purpose of the separator vessel is to receive a blended feed which is separated into hydrocarbon vapors, hydrocarbon liquid, and water.

The proposed project will not result in an increase in potential to emit from Source 1449 which does not have any direct emissions to the atmosphere. The proposed project will result in the installation of the following new and replaced fugitive components: 52 valves, 51 flanges, and 28 connectors. Because the new vessel will have the same volumetric capacity (36,000 bbl of blended feed per day), design temperature (300°F), and design pressure (1,965 psig) as the existing vessel, there is no potential for debottlenecking sources upstream or downstream of Source 1449. Therefore, the proposed project constitutes an alteration of Source 1449, per the definition in Air District Regulation 2-1-233.

**Finding of Exemption:**

The Air District has determined that the issuance of this Authority to Construct for an alteration 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 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 involves the replacement of existing parts of Source 1449, 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, 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; and 2) 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.



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

April 14, 2026  
Date