

DOCKETED

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South Coast Air Quality Management District

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March 2, 2017

Honorable Commissioner Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Alamitos Energy Center AFC Committee

Honorable Commissioners Janea A. Scott
Commissioner and Associate Member
Alamitos Energy Center AFC Committee

Kenneth Celli, Hearing Officer
Chief Counsel's Office

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SCAQMD's Responses to Questions at the March 1, 2017 Committee Conference on Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) in Long Beach, CA for the Alamitos Energy Center Project

Dear Commissioners Douglas and Scott:

On March 1, 2017, the California Energy Commission (CEC) held a Committee Conference in Long Beach, CA on the PMPD for the Alamitos Energy Center (AEC) project. At the meeting, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD or District) was requested to participate in order to answer some questions from the Committee members. Although the District's engineers joined the WebEx conference call during the public comment period, they were unable to participate due to technical difficulties. This letter is being submitted to answer some of the questions that the Committee members might have regarding the issuance of the Air Quality permits for the AEC project.

As the Committee is aware of, the SCAQMD released the Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC) for this AEC project on November 18, 2016. However, upon legal advice, the District had also re-noticed the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) on November 10, 2016, for a 30-day review period. The review period ended on December 20, 2016, and the SCAQMD received one comment letter from the public. The District finalized its responses to the comment letter received during the PDOC re-notice period, and forwarded those responses to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Energy Commission (CEC) on February

9, 2017. The SCAQMD concluded that no changes to the FDOC were required as a result of the comments received during the PDOC re-notice period.

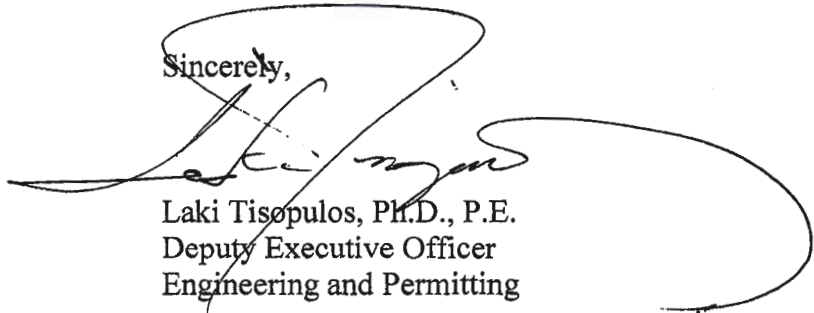
The EPA had 45-days to review the proposed permits and the responses to the comments received during the PDOC re-notice. That period would have ended on March 27, 2017, but the District requested the EPA to expedite its review. On March 1, 2017, the EPA provided an early termination of the review of the proposed AEC permit applications with no further comments, and acknowledged that the permit is now eligible for issuance. Please note that although EPA has terminated their review early, the 60 day period for the public to petition the EPA to object to the permit begins the day after EPA's 45 day review period would have otherwise ended on March 27, 2017. Any objections filed with the EPA on the permit must be based on objections which were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period unless the petitioner demonstrates that either it was impracticable to raise such objections within the comment period or that the grounds for the objection arose after the comment period.

The SCAQMD further acknowledges the receipt of CEC's Staff Comments on the Alamitos Energy Center Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (docketed on February 23, 2017, TN# 216213) and agrees with the recommended edits to the Air Quality section of the PMPD.

This completes our pre-construction review of the proposed project and issuance of the Title V Facility Permit can now be completed. We await the CEC's final action on the project, prior to proceeding with issuing the Title V Facility Permit as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (909) 396-3123, Ltisopulos@aqmd.gov.

Sincerely,



Laki Tisopulos, Ph.D., P.E.
Deputy Executive Officer
Engineering and Permitting

LT:AYL:BC

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