



CITY ADMINISTRATION  
4305 Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, California 90058  
Telephone (323) 583-8811

May 26, 2022

Mr. Wayne Nastri  
Executive Director  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Re: South Coast AQMD Rule 415 Compliance

Dear Mr. Nastri:

The City of Vernon (City) is aware of the ongoing compliance issues regarding South Coast Air Quality Management Control District (SCAQMD) Rule 415 – *Odors from Rendering Facilities*, specifically as it relates to pending compliance by rendering facilities located within the City. We understand the four rendering facilities in Vernon subject to Rule 415 were given specific deadline dates to install permanent total enclosures and implement measures to minimize and contain odors. The City takes this issue seriously, as the local community is impacted by rendering odors stemming from facilities that may be out of compliance. The City expects that all businesses within its boundaries comply with all applicable environmental and public health-related laws and regulations, including South Coast AQMD Rule 415.

Based on the information available on the SCAQMD website, it appears that one rendering company in Vernon, Baker Commodities Inc. (Baker), has not met the compliance requirements at their facilities under Rule 415 by the deadlines SCAQMD issued of March 9, 2022, and April 22, 2022. Although the City has its own Environmental Health department, Vernon does not have oversight authority on Rule 415 for rendering facilities and the City relies on SCAQMD's jurisdiction and direction over odors from rendering facilities. As such, the City is requesting your prompt attention in providing an update on whether or not Baker is currently in compliance with Rule 415. If Baker is out of compliance, the City is seeking clarification on any pending enforcement action by SCAQMD to ensure compliance with Rule 415.

The health and quality of life of our residents, visitors, workers, and neighbors in surrounding cities are of the utmost importance. Vernon supports efforts to reduce rendering odors and remains committed to working with SCAQMD on outreach efforts in the community regarding this issue, including partnering with SCAQMD on a townhall meeting to educate the public about compliance requirements under Rule 415 and to hear overall concerns. The City is also committed to taking action within its local

*Exclusively Industrial*

jurisdiction to assist with efforts to ensure that all Vernon rendering facilities comply with applicable laws. To that end, it is important for the City to be informed of any outstanding Rule 415 violations and their impact on the surrounding residents, workers, and neighbors in the surrounding cities.

To provide updates, please contact Freddie Agyin, Director of Environmental Health, at [fagyin@cityofvernon.org](mailto:fagyin@cityofvernon.org) or (323) 826-1448.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlos R. Fandino Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos R. Fandino Jr.,  
City Administrator, City of Vernon