



COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

*Building Community Power to Achieve Environmental Justice,
Clean Energy and Healthy Communities*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tesoro LA's Flawed Environmental Review Moves Forward

Court opens dangerous path for expansion of the West Coast's largest oil refinery, despite community protests

Los Angeles, CA-- Upon the court's decision being made public this week, CBE issues the following statement. Judge Fruin of Los Angeles Superior Court ruled in favor of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), approving the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the expansion of the Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery (recently purchased by Marathon). Clean air advocates are extremely concerned about the decision, given the EIR's failure to disclose major increases in pollution and accident risk allowed by the Air District's approval. Tesoro's expansion includes millions of gallons of new crude oil storage which can open capacity at the ports for more crude offloading by ship, and includes major equipment expansions at the refinery. The environmental review failed to evaluate increases in pollution and accident risk. The Tesoro (now Marathon) refinery is bordered by Wilmington, Carson, and West Long Beach, communities of color already severely overburdened by refineries, drilling, and ports pollution.

"We are dismayed," **said Shana Lazerow, CBE Legal Director.** "The facts and the law support the community's need for full disclosure and mitigation of this massive project."

"The small Wilmington community is already ground zero for refinery pollution," **said Alicia Rivera, Wilmington Community Organizer with CBE.** "AQMD's decision to allow Tesoro's mammoth expansion is irresponsible, unjust, and unconscionable. It is

sad that we have to fight our regulators in court to make sure they protect our health and safety.”

In 2013, Tesoro Wilmington purchased the British Petroleum Carson refinery next door, and began integrating the two refineries to become the largest refinery on the West Coast. CBE filed its [lawsuit](#) June 14, 2017 against the Air District, challenging approval of the Tesoro expansion. Tesoro’s EIR was published in 2016, followed by [thousands protesting the expansion on Earth Day 2017](#) in a march to Tesoro’s gates.

CBE argued the district illegally approved the expansion in 2017. Without disclosure, the EIR allowed large increases in pollutants from refinery heaters and boilers, dozens of new connections to flares, and increases in ship deliveries of crude oil. The massive new crude oil storage tanks would allow 3.4 million barrels of crude oil stored. Tesoro also has stated to investors that it plans to bring Canadian Tar Sands and Dakota Bakken crude oil to Los Angeles in large volumes.

Transparent and accurate environmental review by the regulators is fundamentally important for community protection. CBE previously won similar cases in the California Supreme Court regarding the Phillips 66 Los Angeles refinery, and in the Court of Appeal regarding the Chevron Richmond in Northern California. In each case, Air Districts failed to implement requirements of the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) in protecting vulnerable families exposed to toxics.

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