



Media Advisory

*Community members and public health advocates pushing back against massive oil industry expansion in Wilmington and Carson
Demanding AQMD and elected officials to stand up to Big Oil*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2016

Contacts

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When: Tuesday, May 17th: 6 to 8 PM

Where: Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson Street, Carson, 90745

What: At this AQMD Hearing, community leaders, public health advocates, scientists, teachers, students, environmental health and justice organizations will present powerful testimonies urging AQMD to stand up to the oil industry and protect public health.

Background: Tesoro is proposing a massive expansion project in the Wilmington/Carson area creating the largest oil refinery in the West Coast--adding over 3 million barrels of new crude oil storage tanks, liquefied petroleum gas by rail, and many miles of pipelines. Tesoro has described this expansion publicly as mainly reducing emissions and making the refinery more efficient. However, investor statements and environmental documentation identify Tesoro strategies to bring North Dakota Bakken and potentially Canadian tar sands crude oil by rail to Vancouver, Washington, and then by ship to West Coast refineries. These crude oil switches can introduce major new hazards, including explosion hazard from volatile Bakken crude, and corrosion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas hazards from Canadian crude.

When a similar project was first proposed in 2014, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) challenged Tesoro's claim that it had no significant potential for environmental impacts, and forced a more extensive environmental review of the project. Unfortunately, many misleading statements have been made to the public on the potential climate, health and environmental impacts of this project. Additionally the draft environmental review overseen by AQMD is weak and inadequate. This project, if approved, can cause additional significant health and environmental impacts in vulnerable communities of Wilmington and Carson. If approved, AQMD will be violating its legal and ethical responsibilities to protect these communities while weakening progress to achieve important statewide climate targets.

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