

## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 27, 2018

Mr. Dave Forster  
Vice President, Los Angeles Refinery  
Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC  
2101 East Pacific Coast Highway  
Wilmington, CA 90744

Dear Mr. Forster:

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN – TESORO REFINING & MARKETING COMPANY LLC, LOS ANGELES REFINERY-WILMINGTON FACILITY, WILMINGTON, CALIFORNIA (NPDES NO. CA0003778, CI -5427)**

Thank you for your submittal dated May 30, 2018, transmitting a Draft Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (collectively, the Draft Plans) to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). The Draft Plans were submitted per requirements of the waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Order No. R4-2017-0095) for the subject Facility. Section VII.C.2.c of the Limitations and Discharge Requirements of Order No. R4-2017-0095 requires the Discharger to implement a Compliance Monitoring Program at the Dominguez Channel, Torrance Lateral, and Dominguez Channel Estuary in accordance with the *Dominguez Channel and Greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Waters Toxic Pollutants Total Maximum Daily Load* (Harbor Toxics TMDL), which was incorporated into the Basin Plan through Resolution No. R11-008. The Regional Water Board reviewed the Draft Plans and provides the following comments:

1. MRP, Section 4.1. MRP Implementation Schedule. In accordance with the language included on pg. 24 of Attachment A to Resolution No. R11-008 under “Fish Tissue Monitoring” and based on consultation with TMDL staff, fish tissue samples must be collected from within the Dominguez Channel Estuary (preferred) or downstream within its proximity (if no fish are available within the Estuary during the sampling event). Please revise accordingly throughout the entire document for consistency.
2. MRP, Table 4.1. Monitoring Station 00: The Facility discharges into the Dominguez Channel Estuary downstream of the freshwater portion of the Dominguez Channel. Toxicity testing is required in the freshwater portion of the Dominguez Channel only. Therefore, sampling at Station 00 (Chronic Toxicity Sampling Station) is unnecessary. Please revise accordingly throughout the entire document for consistency.
3. MRP, Table 4.1. Monitoring Stations 01 and 03: Bed sediment samplings (including sediment triad sampling and sediment chemistry sampling) are only required at Station

03 (Discharge Point 003 Station). Water column/TSS sampling requirements at Monitoring Locations 01 and 03 remain unchanged. Please revise accordingly throughout the entire document for consistency.

4. MRP, Table 4.1. Monitoring Station 04: See Comment 1 regarding the location for the fish tissue sampling. Fish tissue samples must be collected from within the Dominguez Channel Estuary (preferred) or downstream within its proximity (if no fish are available within the Estuary during the sampling event). Please revise accordingly throughout the entire document for consistency.
5. MRP, Section 4.2. Water Column Monitoring: The word “solids” is missing from the second sentence “total suspended [solids] (TSS) samples” of the second paragraph.
6. MRP, Table 4.3. Freshwater Sediment Target: The Facility discharges to the Dominguez Channel Estuary, which is estuarine. As such, marine sediment targets apply. Also, all the marine sediment targets included under the “Sediment Target” Table on pages 4 and 5 of Attachment A to Resolution No. R11-008 for which sediment analyses are conducted are applicable to the Dominguez Channel Estuary and must be listed in Table 4.3.
7. MRP, Section 4.3. Sediment Monitoring: The description in this section for sediment monitoring indicated that the Discharger has chosen to demonstrate compliance through the Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO) method in accordance with option (b) listed on pg. 24 of Attachment A to Resolution No. R11-008 (conducting sediment chemistry sampling every 5 years instead of conducting sediment chemistry and benthic community sampling every 2 years which is required in option (a) listed on pg. 23). Items (a) and (c) on pg. 9 and pg. 10 of the MRP for compliance determination are not required where option (b) is selected. Mixing between different compliance options is not recommended. Please list the corresponding compliance method based on the compliance option chosen (refer to pgs. 23-24 of Attachment A to Resolution No. R11-008 for compliance options). If option (a) is chosen instead, the MRP shall include separate sections for interim and final sediment allocations associated with the selected compliance options.
8. MRP, Section 6.0. Reporting Requirement: The annual report shall also include a summary of compliance/ non-compliance with the waste load allocations/ targets.
9. QAPP, Section 6.0. Project Task Description: Third paragraph of this section indicates that contracted laboratories used by the facility are certified by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) of the State Water Resources Control Board, but included the acronym “NELAP” instead. Please reconcile.
10. QAPP, Table 6.1. Monitoring Requirements: Benzo(a)pyrene is missing from the list of monitored constituents for the “Water Column/TSS” medium.
11. QAPP, Section 6.2. Deliverables: The word “fish” is missing from the first sentence of the second paragraph “water, sediment, and [fish] tissue analytical results”.
12. QAPP, Section 9.0. Documentation and Records: Correct typographical error in the last bullet point following the second paragraph: “Additional information that *may* affect the integrity of the samples.”

13. QAPP, Section 11.1. Water Column and TSS Sample Collection: All parameters to be analyzed and the sampling frequency shall be listed; alternately, reference Table 10.0.
14. QAPP, Section 12.3. Sample Log/Sample Collection Information: Chain of Custody shall also include: preservatives added; field measurement results; and signature and printed name of person receiving the samples.
15. QAPP, Section 13.1. Analytical Methodology: Duplicate and spike samples shall be analyzed at a frequency as specified in the applicable analytical method; if the method did not specify a frequency, then the Discharger can follow the frequency included in this section.
16. Figure 1. Vicinity Topographic Map: Currently, the address “11021 Winners Circle, Los Alamitos, CA” is listed under the “Site Vicinity Map” text box. The address differs from the Facility’s physical address. Please indicate the Facility’s name and address on the legend.
17. Figure 3. Harbor Toxics TMDL Dominguez Channel Monitoring Location: See Comment 2. Toxicity testing at the freshwater portion of the Dominguez Channel is not required for the Discharger, since the Facility discharges to the Estuary downstream of the freshwater portion.
18. Figure 5. Harbor Toxics TMDL Receiving Water Monitoring Location: Modify location of the fish tissue sample in accordance with Comment 1.
19. Appendix A. Sample Containers and Holding Conditions:
  - Metal sediment analyses: Pg. 62 of the SWAMP document included in Appendix F indicated the following for trace metals in bed sediments, please reconcile: sediment samples may be refrigerated at 6°C for up to 14 days maximum, but analysis must start within the 14-day period of collection or thawing, or the sediment sample must be stored frozen at -20°C for up to 12 months.
  - Mercury sediment analyses: see above comment.
  - Sediment Toxicity: Appendix A indicated a 30-day holding time for sediment toxicity samples; however, the SWAMP document in Appendix F included a holding time for sediment toxicity samples of 14 days only. Please modify the holding time for sediment toxicity sample in Appendix A to be consistent with that included in the SWAMP document.
  - PCBs analyses in fish tissue: SWAMP measurement quality objectives for PCBs in freshwater and marine tissue indicated the following, please reconcile: cool to 6°C within 24 hours, then freeze to less than or equal to -20°C.
20. Appendix B. Analytical Methods, Reporting Limits and Method Detection Levels:
  - Water Column/TSS Analysis:
    - For the DDT parameters under the “Pesticides” category, the listed method detection levels (MDLs) are higher than the reporting limits (RLs). Please revise.
    - The MDL and RL listed here for the PCB parameters are significantly higher than the waste load allocation for PCBs included in the TMDL

(0.00017 µg/L). Please use a sufficiently sensitive method for PCB analyses.

- Sediment Analysis:
  - Include information for chronic toxicity and benthic community effects. Toxicity shall be evaluated using % survival in accordance with SQO Part 1, which evaluates the sediment toxicity line of evidence using percent of control survival.
- Fish Tissue Analysis:
  - For the DDT parameters under the “Pesticides” category, the listed method detection levels (MDLs) are higher than the reporting limits (RLs). Please revise.

21. Appendix C. Harbor Toxics TMDL Targets:

- Water Column Targets: Waste load allocations applicable to the Dominguez Channel Estuary listed on pg. 13 of Attachment A to Resolution No. R11-008 shall be used instead.
- Sediment Targets: Only marine sediment targets are applicable. See Comment 6.
- Footnote 2: This footnote indicates that the targets listed in Appendix C are applicable during wet weather only in the Dominguez Channel. However, the Facility discharges to the Dominguez Channel Estuary. The Harbor Toxics TMDL included water column, sediment, and fish tissue targets for the Dominguez Channel Estuary that are applicable all year round. Therefore, please clarify in Footnote 2 that the targets listed in Appendix C is applicable to the Facility during both dry and wet weather.
- Footnote 3: See Comment 7.

22. Appendix D. Chain of Custody (COC):

- COC-Water Column/TSS: Please clearly indicate that the analyses to be performed for samples taken from Monitoring Stations 01 and 03 shall be conducted for both the water portion and the TSS portion. TSS samples are also collected at several depths (which will result in more than one sample and hence multiple entries).
- COC-Sediment: Sediment sample required at Monitoring Station 03 only.
- COC-Fish Tissue: Indicate the location/coordinates where the fish was sampled for the event. Also, the NPDES permit number included is incorrect.

Please modify the Draft Plans in accordance with the comments included herewith and submit a revised Monitoring Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (Revised Draft Plans) by **August 20, 2018**. The Revised Draft Plans will be posted on the Regional Water Board’s website for a 30-day public comment period. The Regional Water Board will provide further instructions on the implementation of the Revised Draft Plans depending on whether substantial comments are received.

Mr. Dave Forster  
Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC  
Los Angeles Refinery – Wilmington Facility

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If you have any questions, please contact Ching Yin To at [Ching-Yin.To@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ching-Yin.To@waterboards.ca.gov) or at (213) 576-6696.

Sincerely,



*for* Deborah J. Smith  
Executive Officer

cc: **(Via Email Only)**

Mr. Robert Nguyen, Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC  
Ms. Amber Ballrot, Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC  
Ms. Chelsea Dryer, WGR Southwest, Inc.  
Ms. Ana Horn, WGR Southwest, Inc.