



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCOPING MEETING American Ethanol, Inc. Ethanol Plant

County Case Numbers 07DVP-00014 and 07CUP-00035, APN 113-200-014

DATE: Thursday, January 10, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Betteravia Government Center, Board Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria, California

The Santa Barbara County Planning and Development (P&D) Department has initiated environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a proposed ethanol production plant west of Santa Maria. P&D invites you and other interested persons and organizations to comment on our preliminary assessment of the environmental issues to be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. The deadline for submitting EIR scoping comments to P&D is January 25, 2008. Our preliminary assessment (Initial Study) of issues to be addressed in the EIR includes more detailed information about the proposed project and is available from the P&D Energy Division and on the Energy Division's website: <http://www.countyofsb.org/energy>.

THE PROJECT: American Ethanol, Inc. is proposing to construct and operate a corn-based 110-million gallon per year (mmgy) ethanol production plant in northern Santa Barbara County, about two miles west of the City of Santa Maria. The plant site would occupy about 40 acres of a larger parcel at the intersection of Ray Road and Betteravia Road. Corn would be shipped via railcar from the Midwest through the Guadalupe rail yard to the site. Plant construction is expected to take 14 to 18 months and the plant would operate 350 days per year, 24 hours per day. Various tanks and vessels would be installed at the site, including five 108-foot silos and several other components and buildings, as well as new rail siding along Betteravia Road. The ethanol produced at the plant would be delivered by truck to facilities in the Central Valley and southern California to be blended with gasoline (to replace MTBE). Dry distillers' grains would be shipped from the plant via truck and/or rail. The ethanol plant would receive about 217 million gallons of water per year for plant process operations from the Laguna County Sanitation District.

THE MEETING: The EIR scoping meeting discussion will be limited to environmental concerns, the focus of the project environmental document, feasible ways in which project impacts may be minimized (mitigation measures), and potential alternatives to the proposed project. The Initial Study prepared for this ethanol plant project discusses several potential environmental impacts and will be used as a starting point for discussion during the meeting. Any other environmental concerns may be raised by the public at the meeting. You may also provide written comments on the scope of the environmental analysis for this project prior to the close of the public scoping period on January 25, 2008. Comments may be delivered via e-mail or regular mail to the P&D Energy Division, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA, 93101. Please contact Nancy Minick (805) 568-2506; NMinick@co.santa-barbara.ca.us or Kevin Drude at (805) 568-2519; Kevin@co.santa-barbara.ca.us for additional information.

We encourage your participation in this process; please pass this information on to others you feel would be interested in attending this meeting. We look forward to your participation on **January 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Betteravia Government Center in Santa Maria or via the remote video testimony system from the County Planning Commission Hearing Room at 123 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara.

Date of this Notice: December 21, 2007

This EIR Scoping Meeting will be recorded and broadcast on County of Santa Barbara TV (CSBTV), Channel 20, on January 12 and 13 at 5:00 p.m. and on January 14 at 9:00 a.m.