

## Background

JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. (JCI) is located at 1401 Del Amo Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90501. JCI's products are used as disinfectants in municipal drinking and wastewater treatment. Chemicals are brought on site in bulk quantities (railcars, tank trucks, etc.), repackaged into smaller containers, and transported to customers as needed. Any residual compressed gas is absorbed in an appropriate solution and sold as product. JCI handles chlorine and sulfur dioxide, which are regulated under California's Accidental Release Program (CalARP) and the Federal Risk Management Program (RMP).

## Is the facility subject to environmental requirements?

JCI is subject to federal, state, and local requirements related to air emissions, water quality, chemical accident prevention programs, and hazardous waste.

## Who is involved in this matter?

Multiple environmental agencies at the federal, state, and local level are responsible for regulating JCI and have been engaged in inspection and enforcement activities, including:

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)
- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazmat (LA County Fire) – Unified Program/Participating Agency (PA)
- Los Angeles Fire Department (LA City Fire) – Unified Program/Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)
- State Water Resources Control Board and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB and LA RWQCB)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (US EPA)

## South Coast AQMD Actions

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. The agency conducts regular inspections of businesses and other stationary sources of air pollution to evaluate compliance with applicable air quality rules and

permit conditions. Inspectors also respond to air quality complaints received from the public.

- June 2022: South Coast AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and evaluated two permitted devices: a sodium hypochlorite production line and a sodium bisulfite production line. A Notice to Comply was issued to obtain records relating to scrubbing solution and heat exchanger specifications.
- August 2023: South AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and issued a Notice of Violation under Rule 203 – *Permit to Operate* for the failure to maintain minimum pH levels in the scrubber for the sodium bisulfite production line.
- September 2024: South Coast AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and issued a Notice to Comply to obtain records relating to scrubbing solution and pH levels. The prior noncompliance was resolved, and no new violations were identified.
- February 2026: South Coast AQMD conducted multiple on-site inspections. A routine inspection was conducted on February 11, with no violations observed. Additionally, on February 17 and 24, inspections were performed in response to a vapor release of sulfur dioxide and/or sodium bisulfite reported to Cal OES by the facility. This is an active, ongoing investigation.

## CARB

CARB is responsible for protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing and enforcing programs and actions to fight climate change. CARB implements and enforces engine certification, reporting, and testing requirements to help ensure mobile sources such as heavy-duty trucks are operating and maintained according to statewide emissions standards. Additionally, CARB supports and oversees air district stationary source programs. CARB has not issued citations or Notices of Violation (NOV) to heavy duty vehicles owned by JCI Jones

## LA County Fire Actions

Hazardous waste regulations under state and federal law require companies to manage and dispose of hazardous wastes safely and properly. LA County Fire implements the Hazardous Waste Generator program in LA, and JCI is a generator of hazardous wastes. Hazardous waste facilities like JCI are inspected on a triennial basis unless a complaint is received.

On March 18, 2021, LA County Fire PA conducted a routine inspection at JCI to determine compliance with hazardous waste generator requirements. A Class II violation was cited for failure to dispose of 2 x 55-gal drums of “purge water” within 180-days from the date of initial accumulation. This violation was confirmed to be corrected as of April 14, 2021.

On December 5, 2023, a routine hazardous waste compliance inspection was conducted, and no violation was observed.

On May 31, 2024, a joint inspection routine hazardous waste program compliance inspection with US EPA. A Class II violation was cited for failure to dispose of 1 x 35-gal waste cleaning residue and 1 x 25-gal waste rust chips within 180 days of the accumulation start date. A minor violation was cited for failure to label properly 1 x 35-gal waste cleaning residue and 1 x 25-gal waste rust chips hazardous waste containers (both hazardous waste containers were missing the accumulation start dates on the hazardous waste labels). The facility has abated the above-cited violations.

## LA City Fire Actions

As the CUPA for the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Fire is responsible for conducting Unified Program inspections at regulated facilities to determine compliance with the:

- Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program;
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program;
- Underground Storage Tank Program; and
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act.

LAFD CUPA inspected the JCI September 20, 2016, and September 16, 2019, violations were cited and abated within a couple of months of the inspection.

On September 14, 2022, the CUPA conducted a routine inspection at JCI to determine compliance with HMBP reporting requirements and CalARP Program 3 requirements. Five violations were cited.

On October 3, 2023, the CUPA conducted a reinspection at JCI to verify abatement of previous five violations, and two additional violations were cited. Compliance was expected by December 3, 2023. The violations noted from the October 2023 inspection have been resolved.

LAFD accompanied US EPA on May 31, 2024. In October, JCI submitted their annual emergency coordination response plan to LAFD. JCI and the city continually correspond

addressing regulatory questions and resolving any compliance issues between JCI Jones personnel and LAFD.

LAFD conducted multiple inspections of JCI Jones between August 2025 and January 2026 to evaluate compliance with CalARP Program 3 and HMBP requirements.

On August 6, 2025, the CUPA conducted an inspection with CalEPA and identified several violations. The facility had bypassed an alarm system and modified associated piping without updating the P&IDs through the Management of Change (MOC) process. Additionally, chlorine and sulfur dioxide re-packaging operations were using repurposed and physically modified one-ton cylinders as pressure vessels without documented engineering certification for their current use. Violations were also issued related to operating procedures and the compliance audit program.

On September 8, 2025, the CUPA conducted a follow-up inspection. The alarm system piping had been modified, and P&IDs were updated accordingly. The facility reported that certification of the repurposed cylinders was in progress.

Joint inspections with CUPA and Fire Code Inspectors were conducted on December 15 and 22, 2025, and January 14, 2026. Inspectors identified leaks from newly installed valves in the sodium hydroxide system and documented a sodium hypochlorite release that extended beyond secondary containment. Additional fire code violations were noted. During the January inspection, the facility advised that it had initiated a feasibility study to rebuild the entire process. LAFD plans to meet with facility representatives in May 2026 to review the study results and determine next steps.

## State and Regional Water Board Actions

The State and Regional Water Boards provide oversight of Clean Water Act programs, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. JCI is subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Industrial General Permit (IGP). The IGP regulates discharges of pollutants in stormwater runoff from the facility’s industrial activities.

LA RWQCB inspected JCI in December 2022 and at the time of the inspection:

- No violations were observed.
- Deficient best management practices were corrected by JCI or through follow-up corrective action documentation provided to the Water Board.
- The facility was being monitored for exceedances of aluminum, iron, and nitrite/nitrate.

SWRCB inspected JCI in January 2024 and at the time of the inspection:

- Deficient Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and best management practices (BMPs) observed were corrected by JCI and corrective action documentation was submitted to the Water Board.
- Facility continues to monitor for exceedances of aluminum and nitrite/nitrate and the effectiveness of BMPs implemented.
- JCI and SWRCB engaged in compliance discussions through the summer of 2024 resulting in JCI committing additional resources and engineering assessments. Continuing discussion on stormwater compliance is ongoing.

SWRCB inspected JCI in July 2025 and at the time of the inspection:

- Staff performed an unannounced stormwater compliance inspection, and 15 concerns were observed and documented in an inspection report. Some of the concerns were addressed immediately by JCI and corrective action documentation was submitted to the Water Board.
- JCI and SWRCB engaged in compliance discussions through the fall of 2025 resulting in JCI committing additional resources and engineering assessments. Continuing enforcement on stormwater compliance is ongoing.

SWRCB and LA RWQCB inspected JCI in September 2025, with support from DTSC. At the time of the inspection:

- Waterboards staff performed a follow-up unannounced stormwater compliance inspection and DTSC staff collected soil, water, and sludge samples to determine the toxicity of any potential release or subsequent contamination.
- The September inspection was primarily focused on areas of the facility that had been identified as compliance concerns during the July 21, 2025, inspection. While half of the 15 prior areas of concern had been addressed, the other half persisted. In addition, 6 more issues were identified including (but not limited to) leaking equipment, exposed bags of solid water treatment chemicals, and containment tubs with unknown, exposed liquids.
- JCI, LA RWQCB, and SWRCB are currently engaged in ongoing stormwater compliance discussions.

LA RWQCB inspected JCI in February 2026 and at the time of the inspection:

- On January 31, 2026, JCI submitted a Hazardous Materials Spill Report (Spill Report) for a potential release to the Governor's Office of Emergency

Services (Cal OES). The report stated that no release or injuries had occurred.

- The LA RWQCB visited JCI on February 4, 2026, and determined that no other spill or stormwater concerns regarding the potential release incident described in the Spill Report were observed.
- Seven areas of concern were addressed by JCI since the September 2025 inspection.
- However, the inspection report notes 10 outstanding or new issues include (but not limited to) various water leaks from their soft water system connection, overflow tanks associated with cooling towers leaking, rusted infrastructure, and open bins with industrial waste outside.
- JCI, LA RWQCB, and SWRCB are currently engaged in ongoing stormwater compliance discussions.

## CalEPA Actions

CalEPA is the parent agency to six boards, departments, and offices charged with protecting public health and the environment, including DTSC, CARB, and the Water Boards. The HMBP/CalARP Unit at CalEPA oversees the implementation of the CalARP Program at the state level. CalEPA attended and aided in the CalARP inspection conducted by LA City Fire CUPA which started on August 6, 2025. CalEPA is focused on helping to support the local CUPA as well as ensuring enforcement and compliance activities are consistent, effective, and coordinated.

## US EPA Actions

US EPA provides regulatory oversight over states, tribes, and territories. US EPA works with state and local agencies to ensure private and public facilities maintain compliance under environmental statutes, including the Clean Air Act Chemical Accident Prevention Program.

US EPA inspected JCI in 2015 and 2017 to evaluate compliance with chemical accident prevention, state and local emergency planning and release reporting, and federal release reporting requirements. Violations were identified and an August 2021 settlement was reached that required the facility to complete compliance tasks and fined the facility \$200,000.

In May 2024, US EPA conducted a chemical accident prevention program inspection, as well as a hazardous waste inspection. US EPA was accompanied by inspectors from the LA County CUPA. The inspection results are currently pending.

On October 9, 2025, US EPA Region 9 entered into a Clean Air Act Section 112r Expedited Settlement Agreement with JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. to address violations observed

during EPA's May 31, 2024, inspection. JCI Jones resolved deficiencies and paid a \$7,200 penalty.

## For More Information Contact:

### **South Coast AQMD**

Terrence Mann, Chief of Enforcement  
[tmann@aqmd.gov](mailto:tmann@aqmd.gov)

### **CARB**

Jeff Lindberg, Chief of Stationary Source Enforcement  
[Jeff.Lindberg@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Jeff.Lindberg@arb.ca.gov)

### **LA City Fire**

Royce Long, CUPA Manager  
[royce.long@lacity.org](mailto:royce.long@lacity.org)  
Minh Le, Hazmat Supervisor  
[minh.u.le@lacity.org](mailto:minh.u.le@lacity.org)  
Sam Calvert, Process Safety Engineer  
[samuel.calvert@lacity.org](mailto:samuel.calvert@lacity.org)

### **LA County Fire**

Raquel Doom, Sup. HazMat Specialist  
[raquel.doom@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:raquel.doom@fire.lacounty.gov)

### **State and Regional Water Boards**

Selina Cole, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)  
[selina.cole@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:selina.cole@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Nerissa Schrader, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
[nerissa.schrader@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:nerissa.schrader@waterboards.ca.gov)

### **CalEPA**

Trevor Anderson, Environmental Justice Enforcement Manager  
[trevor.anderson@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:trevor.anderson@calepa.ca.gov)  
Liz Brega, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)  
[liz.brega@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:liz.brega@calepa.ca.gov)  
Alexa Kostrikin, Environmental Scientist  
[alexa.kostrikin@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:alexa.kostrikin@calepa.ca.gov)

### **US EPA**

Rick Sakow, Manager, Hazardous Waste and Chemicals Section  
[sakow.rick@epa.gov](mailto:sakow.rick@epa.gov)

## For Community Information Contact:

### **Del Amo Action Committee**

Cynthia Babich, Founder and Director, Del Amo Action Committee  
<https://delamoactioncommittee.org/>

### **Community Affected by JCI Jones Chemical, Inc.:**

The Del Amo Community is located in unincorporated Harbor Gateway between the cities of Torrance, Carson, Gardena, and Harbor City. The Community is represented by the Del Amo Action Committee, a grassroots organization formed in 1994. The Del Amo Action Committee promotes the empowerment of residents through information on environmental contamination and seeks to collaborate with government agencies, non-profit groups, and residents to make meaningful changes.