

## 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 delegated Clean Air Act compliance and enforcement authority in Los Angeles. South Coast AQMD conducts regular inspections at major sources, other significant sources of air pollution and responds to complaints.

South Coast AQMD's most recent inspection of JCI was performed in June 2022 and evaluated two permitted devices: one Sodium Hypochlorite production line and one Sodium Bisulfite production line. A Notice to Comply was issued for a request for records (scrubbing solution and heat exchanger specifications). The facility provided relevant records.

## 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 enforces emission standards and requirements to ensure mobile sources are as clean as possible. Additionally, CARB supports and oversees air district stationary source programs. CARB has not issued citations or Notices of Violation (NOV) to JCI Jones and based on the mobile equipment reported under JCI there are no current compliance violations.

## 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.

## 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 expected by December 3, 2023.

## 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.

## 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. CalEPA has not exercised independent enforcement authority over activities at JCI but helps to ensure 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.

## For More Information Contact:

### South Coast Air Quality Management District

Terrence Mann – Deputy Officer for Compliance and Enforcement

[tmann@aqmd.gov](mailto:tmann@aqmd.gov)

### CARB

Jeff Lindberg – Air Resources Supervisor

[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)

Alvin Dong – Risk Mgmt. & Prevention Program Specialist

[alvin.dong@lacity.org](mailto:alvin.dong@lacity.org)

### LA County Fire

Teresa Quiaoit – Assistant Chief

[teresa.quiaoit@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:teresa.quiaoit@fire.lacounty.gov)

Mathias Mekasha – Sup. HazMat Specialist

[mathias.mekasha@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:mathias.mekasha@fire.lacounty.gov)

### State and Regional Water Boards

Jennifer McGovern – Environmental Scientist

[jennifer.mcgovern@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcgovern@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)

### US EPA

Kaoru Morimoto – Assistant Director

Air, Waste, and Chemicals Branch

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

[morimoto.kaoru@epa.gov](mailto:morimoto.kaoru@epa.gov)

Jamie Marincola – Manager

[marincola.jamespaul@epa.gov](mailto:marincola.jamespaul@epa.gov)

Rick Sakow – Manager, Hazardous Waste and Chemicals Section

[sakow.rick@epa.gov](mailto:sakow.rick@epa.gov)

## 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.

## For Community Information Contact:

### **Del Amo Action Committee**

Cynthia Babich – Founder and Director, Del Amo Action Committee

<https://delamoactioncommittee.org/>