

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Action No. 1939                      **DATE:** February 20, 2020  
**BY:** John King  
**LOCATION:** 16706 Garfield Avenue  
**ZONE:** M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) zone  
**GENERAL PLAN:** Central Industrial District  
**APPLICANT:** Paul Dennis, CFO / Weber Metals, Inc.

### **Description**

The applicant is requesting approval of an administrative action as mandated for metal-related manufacturing businesses that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requires a permit to operate. The Weber Metals facility is located in both Paramount and Long Beach. The headquarters is in Paramount at 16406 Garfield Avenue in the M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) zone. The applicant is an aluminum and titanium forging supplier of commercial and military aerospace components that has been operating in the City of Paramount since 1945. Weber Metals is a subsidiary of Otto Fuchs, a corporation that purchased the business from the Weber family in 1979. The applicant currently employs a staff of more than 600.

### **Background**

In September 2018, the Paramount City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1106 for Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment No. 8, which revised manufacturing regulations in response to high and unhealthful levels of hexavalent chromium and other air emissions.

The purpose of the administrative action is to allow the City of Paramount to have a complete understanding as to how metal-related manufacturing businesses operate. An application would contain a catalog of equipment, materials, and uses. An administrative action approval would also include operating conditions as incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance with Ordinance No. 1106. These performance standards are codified in Section 44-82.1 and 44-82.2 of the Paramount Municipal Code for metal manufacturing businesses located in the M-2 zone.

### **Site Description**

Weber Metals is located in a 21-acre site within Paramount and Long Beach. Approximately 11.4 acres are within the Central Industrial District in the south-central area of Paramount. The business is based in Paramount with primary access from Garfield Avenue and limited access from Harrison Street.

## **Site plan (Paramount portion)**

[removed from public distribution]

## **Application Details**

The following details are compiled from the Administrative Action application, Planning Department records, and SCAQMD information.

### Business Operations

#### OFFICE

The applicant notes approximately 25,000 square feet of office space in different buildings. Office operations includes the corporate office, sales, human resources, IT, engineering, and finance.

#### MANUFACTURING

Open die (hand forging) and closed die (die forging) with a specialization in aluminum and titanium manufacturing take place at the Weber Metals facility.

During forging, preheated aluminum and titanium stock are shaped under pressure into the desired parts using hydraulic presses. Aluminum stock is preheated in furnaces to approximately 750°F while titanium stock is preheated to approximately 1750°F.

The preheating furnaces are powered by natural gas and the furnace burners meet the SCAQMD Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements and comply with applicable SCAQMD permitting requirements.

In hand forging operations, preheated stock is shaped using a flat steel die which may or may not be heated.

In die forging operations, preheated stock is shaped in heated steel impression dies or molds. In all cases, the dies are affixed to a hydraulic press. Each press has its own dedicated hydraulic system and most are equipped with natural-gas-fired ring burners which maintain the dies at the required temperature.

A total of ten hydraulic presses are conducting forging operations at the facility. An eleventh hydraulic press and a mechanical press are used for trimming excess metal.

A lubricant is used in die forging and some hand forging of aluminum parts. The lubricant is applied directly to the surface of the stock and dies immediately prior to the forging operation. In the case of the impression dies (die forging), the lubricant is a graphite/alcohol/water formulation. The die lubricant is applied with a hand-held spray nozzle. In the case of the open dies (hand forging), the lubricant is a caustic solution which is applied manually by swabbing. Die lubricant is not required in titanium forging operations.

Ancillary processes that support the manufacturing operations include:

Etching: Aluminum forgings which have been shaped with the use of die lubricant (all die forgings and a few hand forgings) must be chemically cleaned. Cleaning (or etching) of these parts occurs after each forging cycle. Etching takes place in a sequence of caustic, acid, and water dip tanks. The forgings are placed in baskets which are transferred from tank to tank by hoist. The etch tanks are vented to an air scrubber unit where emissions from the caustic and acid are cleaned before discharge. The air scrubber unit and related equipment comply with applicable permitting requirements.

Prep/repair: During the multiple forging steps, aluminum clean-up on the forgings is performed when necessary using hand-held polishing tools to remove small amounts of defects from the total surface area of the parts. Similarly, titanium cleanup is performed on the forgings when necessary. Larger parts use stationary swing grinders to remove defects. Titanium stock is prepared for the forging process using mobile billet grinders. Cleanup operations are performed in fully enclosed buildings and emissions from titanium repair operations are captured using one of three dedicated dust collection systems. Under new SCAQMD regulations, Weber Metals is currently engaged in the permitting process for all applicable equipment and operations.

Excess forging material (known as flash), is removed from parts using combinations of conventional saws and high-pressure water/sand saws.

Machining, general: Weber Metals performs machining operations in three areas of its business. Weber Metals machines material in the production process and machines the tooling used in production. Weber Metals performs machining on upgrades and repairs of equipment and related systems. These activities are performed on specific materials, tools, and machines on a required basis (not on all produced forgings).

Thermal treatments: Weber Metals uses a variety of thermal treatments to parts in a combination of electric and gas furnaces. Weber Metals also uses a liquid salt bath for certain products. A variety of freezers are also used to balance the treatment during processing.

Storage and other ancillary activities

Raw materials, works-in-progress, and finished parts are stored outdoors. Reclaimed oil from the hydraulic presses are recycled onsite and reused on the presses onsite. [Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 660 is an active CUP for an oil reclamation system.] Quality Assurance operations such as nondestructive testing also takes place onsite. Maintenance of the forklift fleet and charging of electronic forklifts also take place at the Paramount-Long Beach location.

Permits – SCAQMD

Permit No.	Description
M39199	Permit to Operate for Pollution Control Device (Air Scrubber) – Large Etch Line North Scrubber, Sodium Hydroxide
D60661	Permit to Operate for Pollution Control Device (Air Scrubber) – Large Etch Line South Scrubber, Nitric Acid and Venturi
G26556	Permit to Operate for Pollution Control Device (Air Scrubber) – Small Etch Line South Scrubber
D79100	Permit to Operate for Large Etch Line Tanks
G26562	Permit to Operate for Small Etch Line Tanks
F73290	Permit to Operate for Sludge Dryer
G40154	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-242
G40156	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-243
G40155	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-331
G40161	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-332
G40162	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-335
G40160	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-336
G40157	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-337
G40158	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-339
G48354	Permit to Operate for Pre-Heating Furnace OVE-340
A/N 572369	Permit to Construct for Abrasive Blasting System
A/N 572371	Permit to Construct for Air Pollution Control System for Abrasive Blasting System

A/N 572373	Permit to Construct for Pre-Heating Furnace-Pedestal Die Heating Furnace #1 (East Furnace)
A/N 572374	Permit to Construct for Pre-Heating Furnace-Pedestal Die Heating Furnace #2 (West Furnace)
A/N 572370	Permit to Construct for Pre-Heating Furnace-Chain Conveyance Furnace
A/N 572372	Permit to Construct for Pre-Heating Furnace-Rotary Furnace
10966	Title V Permit

**Permits – Other agencies**

Agency	Permit No.	Description
Los Angeles County Fire Dept.	200500160	Permit to perform Hot Work Operations
	200500161	Permit to Use, Handle or Dispense LP-Gas
	N/A	Authorization to Operate a Fixed Treatment Unit Pursuant to Permit by Rule (PBR). [Permit to operate onsite waste water treatment system]
Los Angeles County Sanitation District	008831	Industrial Waste Discharge Permit from Etch Line Operations
	008831	Industrial Waste Discharge Permit from Heat Treat Operations and Cooling Tower Blow Down
	009693	Industrial Waste Discharge Permit from Water Saws and Titanium Grinding Operations
	010111	Industrial Waste Discharge Permit from Penetrant Line
	20699	Industrial Waste Discharge Permit from Etch Line Operations
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Order 2014-0057-DWQ	General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities [Not facility specific. NPDES No. CAS000001.]

***Paramount Conditional Use Permits***

A total of six conditional use permits (CUPs) are active and applicable to the portion of the Weber Metals facility in Paramount. A summary is below:

CUP No.	Description	Approval Date
521	Outside storage [25% of the property at 7618-24 Harrison Street]	5/8/2002 (previous property owner applied – entitlement continues)
660	Oil reclamation system	5/13/2009
710	Install and operate an exterior dust collector system	6/4/2011
719	Construct an etch line wastewater pretreatment system	1/10/2012
739	Install and operate a high-temperature furnace within an addition to an existing metal building	12/11/2012
863	Retrofit a portion of an existing building that will house grinding operations currently located within a different structure to comply with SCAQMD Rule 1430	3/12/2019

Signs. Section 44-82.1 includes provisions for a wall sign to be installed in compliance with M-2 sign regulations. Weber Metals installed a monument sign (photo below for reference) in 2005 with plans and permits. In 2018 the applicant installed a replacement sign face upon the monument sign. Although the Zoning Ordinance refers to a wall sign, the monument sign is designed as the primary means of identifying the Weber Metals facility. As such, the Planning Department staff accepts a monument sign in lieu of wall sign. However, the intent of the sign requirement is to clearly identify a specific business by name. As only a logo is displayed, staff has included a condition of approval for Weber Metals to change the monument sign face by May 1, 2020 following Planning Division review and approval of a Sign Permit. [Building and Safety Division permits are not required for such a change in the sign.]



The International Organization for Standards (ISO). The applicant’s operations have been certified in (1) Certified Environmental Management System, ISO 14001:2015, Registrar NSF-ISR, Ltd. and (2) Certified Quality Management System, AS9100D with ISO 9001:2015, Registrar NSF-ISR, Ltd.

Public tours. The applicant can commit to an annual off-site informational session to inform the community-at-large about business operations and practices. The applicant is acceptable to small group tours on a case-by-case basis (subject to restrictions) with a minimum 60-day notice.

Notices of Violations. The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued the following Notices of Violation (NOVs) to Weber Metals within the last ten years:

1/16/19. P65230. Discharging such quantities of air contaminants which caused nuisance to a considerable number of persons or to the public. Rule 402 (Nuisance); Rule 41700 (Nuisance). Equipment – forging press. Follow up status – In compliance.

12/21/18. P65072. Failure to apply for permits for existing separate grinding operations subject to R1430 and/or associated air pollution control devices. Rule 3002 (Requirements – Title V). Follow up status – In compliance (part of July 2019 agreement with SCAQMD).

12/4/18. P65226. Failure to apply for permits for existing separate grinding operations subject to R1430 and/or associated air pollution control devices. Rule 3002 (Requirements – Title V). Equipment – Grinders and air pollution control devices. Follow up status – In compliance.

10/19/18. P65224. Failure to apply for permits for three existing separate grinding operations subject to Rule 1430 and/or associated air pollution control devices. Rule 3002 (Requirements – Title V). Equipment – Grinding equipment and associated air pollution control devices. Follow up status – In compliance.

10/30/13. P61448. The company was operating two salt bath units without a permit to operate. The company modified the Lindberg Chain Conveyor Oven #332 without first obtaining a Title V permit to operate that allowed such modification. Rule 3002 (Requirements – Title V). Equipment – natural gas heaters. Follow up status – In compliance.

1/16/12. P57144. 1) Failure to submit a title V permit renewal in a timely fashion; 2) Operating a Title V facility without a permit. Rule 3004 (Permit types and content, Title V). Equipment – Furnace, tanks, scrubber. Follow up status – In compliance.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Administrative Action Case No. 1939 is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Except as set forth in conditions, development shall remain substantially as shown on the approved plans. New development must be approved by the Planning Department before construction.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ This application shall not be effective until the applicant has first filed at the office of the Planning Department a sworn affidavit by April 20, 2020 both acknowledging and accepting all conditions of approval of this Administrative Action. Failure to provide the City of Paramount with the requisite affidavit shall render the Administrative Action void.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ No future exterior structural alteration, other than those building treatments previously approved, shall be permitted without the prior approval of the Planning Director.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The use of tarps is prohibited in front setbacks, side setbacks that abut an alley or street, and over driveways.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ No wrought iron, metal, steel, etc. security bars shall be installed on the exterior of any window with visibility from the public rights-of-way.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Landscaping shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Community Development Department in perpetuity. Landscape changes are subject to Community Development Department review and approval. Mature trees shall not be removed without prior approval by the Community Development Department. Plant material shall be maintained in a thriving condition, free from weeds and overgrowth, in perpetuity in compliance with Article XXIV (Water-Efficient Landscape Provisions) of Chapter 44 of the Paramount Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance).
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Sufficient quantities of exterior paint shall be maintained for the removal of graffiti, peeling paint, or other blemishes on the exterior of buildings.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The project shall comply with all pertinent Building and Safety Division requirements.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The operator shall, at all times, maintain and comply with required operating permit from all pertinent agencies.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The responsible party shall maintain to the extent feasible the existing equipment, materials, and uses as listed to the Planning Department in the application materials for this Administrative Action, including but not limited to all equipment, materials, or uses permitted by the City, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The responsible party shall notify the Planning Department of proposed equipment that requires building, mechanical, plumbing, or electrical permits or a combination one or more permits. The responsible party shall notify the Planning Department of proposed uses. Any new equipment, materials, or uses must comply with the Paramount Municipal Code and the conditions set forth herein.



11. \_\_\_\_\_The responsible party shall comply with and maintain required permits from all other applicable regulatory agencies, including but not limited to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the City of Paramount. The use of Best Available Control Technology is required at minimum. A facility shall install Lowest Achievable Emission Rate equipment if required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
12. \_\_\_\_\_The use shall comply with required housekeeping and best management practices of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and all applicable regulatory government agencies.
13. \_\_\_\_\_To the extent that installation of emissions control equipment, including retrofit equipment, is required by an applicable South Coast Air Quality Management District rule or regulation, then such required emissions control equipment shall comply with Best Available Control Technology requirements. A facility shall install Lowest Achievable Emission Rate equipment if required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
14. \_\_\_\_\_Core production and manufacturing activities shall be conducted within an enclosed structure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ancillary activities including but not limited to maintenance; inspection; measuring; active packing, loading, and unloading of deliveries shall be permitted outdoors. Other ancillary activities shall be approved by the Planning Director.
15. \_\_\_\_\_All feasible building resiliency and environmental sustainability provisions shall be incorporated into any new construction and significant building rehabilitation.
16. \_\_\_\_\_An exterior wall sign identifying the business shall be installed in public view by September 1, 2020 and maintained in good condition in compliance with Section 44-81 (21.1) of the Paramount Municipal Code at the direction and approval of the Planning Department. In lieu of an exterior wall sign, the applicant may change the monument sign face by September 1, 2020 following Planning Division review and approval of a Sign Permit.
17. \_\_\_\_\_Certification from the International Standardization Organization (ISO) or equivalent international standard-setting body as relevant regarding environmentally sustainable practices and organization shall be maintained as feasible.
18. \_\_\_\_\_Public tours of the business operation shall be reasonably accommodated at least once each year for the purpose of informing the public of business operations and practices. A comprehensive information session at an off-site location is acceptable provided direct facility access impedes public safety or compromises proprietary processes, as determined by the business owner in

consultation with the Planning Director. The operator shall provide details to the Planning Department at least three weeks in advance of a public tour or equivalent information session annually. The operator shall submit documentation of the public tour (e.g. sign-in sheets or meeting handouts) to the Planning Department annually.

19. \_\_\_\_\_ With consideration of days and hours of operation, specific operations shall be mitigated to minimize impacts upon surrounding uses and infrastructure. Deliveries shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. as much as possible to mitigate or minimize impacts directly relating to such activity on surrounding uses and infrastructure.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ The applicant shall comply with all relevant labor laws and regulations of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the California Department of Industrial Relations and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA).
21. \_\_\_\_\_ The applicant shall comply with all relevant regulations for the disposal of waste of all pertinent agencies, including but not limited to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).
22. \_\_\_\_\_ The operator shall coordinate in good faith with the Planning Director or designee for an annual onsite inspection to be conducted by December 31 of each year with Planning Department staff and Public Safety Department staff to verify approved structures, operations, and equipment. The operator shall accept personnel from applicable regulatory agencies as needed to accompany City of Paramount staff during the course of annual inspections.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ The operator shall comply with all conditions of approval and mitigations of Conditional Use Permits No. 521, 660, 710, 719, 739, and 863.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ All conditions of approval shall be met prior to final approval by the Planning Department.