



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 26, 2025

SAF/IEE
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1665

SUBJECT: Retraction of Draft General Conformity Determination for Authorizing Changes to the Falcon Launch Program at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California

Based on comments received from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on the draft determination, the DAF performed a General Conformity Rule (GCR) reevaluation of up to 100 Falcon launches, extrapolating real-world data collected as part of the requirements for the 2025 GCR Determination (DAF 2025). The results of the reanalysis are provided in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Authorizing Changes to the Falcon Launch Program at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California and were shared and discussed with SCAQMD staff.

Although the Proposed Action will have NO_x emissions within the Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin Ozone Nonattainment area located in the SCAQMD, the GCR Applicability Analysis indicates the action (up to 100 launches) does not exceed GCR *de minimis* thresholds. Consequently, no further GCR evaluation is required. Given the action is *de minimis*, it will comply with the GCR as set forth in SCAQMD Rule 1901.

The previously-issued Draft Amended General Conformity Determination (May 2025) is therefore retracted, and the DAF concludes the Proposed Action will not result in any violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as implemented by the current SCAQMD State Implementation Plan, nor will it impede the District's attainment of the NAAQS.

NANCY J. BALKUS, P.E., SES
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment)

DISTRIBUTION:
Region 9 EPA CAA Section
California Air Resources Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District