



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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SENT VIA E-MAIL AND USPS:

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Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft MND) for the Proposed 10650 N DeSoto Ave; Chatsworth-Porter Ranch (ENV-2016-1484)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The Lead Agency proposes to demolish the existing residential dwelling and construct a 7,098-square-foot house of worship. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final MND. Since the project includes demolition, the Lead Agency must comply with SCAQMD Rule 1403 – Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities. Please provide additional information regarding compliance with SCAQMD Rule 1403 in the Final MND.

In the Draft MND, the Lead Agency failed to quantify the project's air quality emissions during both construction and operation. The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance to prepare an air quality analysis in the Final MND. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More recent guidance developed since this Handbook was published is also available on SCAQMD's website here: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/hdbk.html. SCAQMD staff also recommends that the Lead Agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: www.caleemod.com.

The proposed project is also adjacent to sensitive land uses¹ (i.e., residential dwellings to the north, south, east, and west); however, the Draft MND did not evaluate potential localized air quality impacts that could result from construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the SCAQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency revise the air quality analysis to include an assessment of potential localized air quality impacts during demolition and construction of the proposed project. These potential air quality impacts should be assessed using SCAQMD's Localized Significance Methodology and compared to the localized significance thresholds specific to the project area². Furthermore, the Lead Agency should ensure that all future projects include a localized air quality analysis, if warranted. In the event that the Lead Agency determines the proposed project will result in significant localized construction air quality impacts, the SCAQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency require mitigation to minimize these impacts to a less than significant level. Additional construction-related air quality mitigation measures are available at: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address these concerns and any other air quality questions that may arise. Please contact Jack Cheng, Air Quality Specialist at (909) 396-2448, if you have any questions regarding these comments. We look forward to reviewing and providing comments for the Final MND associated with this project.

Sincerely,

Jillian Wong

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¹ California Air Resources Board. April 2005. "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective." Accessed at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>

² The Localized Significance Threshold (LST) methodology and Mass Rate LST Look Up Table is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/LST/LST.html>