



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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SENT VIA E-MAIL:

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**Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND No. 2395)**  
**for the Perris Hydrogen and CNG Fueling Station Improvements Project -**  
**Specific Plan Amendment 24-0586 and Major Modification 23-05073**  
**(SCH No. 2025011019)**  
**(Proposed Project)**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff appreciate the opportunity to review the above-mentioned document. The City of Perris is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. To provide context, South Coast AQMD staff have provided a brief summary of the project information and prepared the following comments which are organized by topic of concern.

**Summary of Proposed Project Information in the Draft Initial Study (IS)/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)**

Based on the MND, the Propose Project consists of expanding the existing Chevron vehicle fuel station 1) Specific Plan Amendment to change the land use designation of .94 acres from Residential to Commercial and to apply a Residential Overlay; and 2) Major Modification for the construction of (3) islands to accommodate six (6) CNG and Diesel Fuel dispensers under a proposed 1,536 square foot canopy, two(2) islands to accommodate four (4) Hydrogen fuel dispensers under a proposed 1,496 square foot canopy; and two (2) walled enclosures for CNG Hydrogen and Electrical equipment.<sup>1</sup> Based on a review of aerial photographs, South Coast AQMD staff found that the nearest sensitive receptor (e.g., single-family residential) is located approximately 28 feet north of the project site.<sup>2</sup> Construction activities would be completed in approximately five to six months. The Proposed Project is located at 4063 North Webster Avenue, north of Chevron Fueling Station, located at 796 Ramona Expressway.<sup>3</sup>

**South Coast AQMD Comments**

*Ensuring Accurate Emission Reporting: Inclusion of Maximum Daily Emissions in IS/MND*

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<sup>1</sup> IS/MND. Page 29.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Page 135.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Page 29.

According to *Appendix A – Air Quality Impact Analysis* in the draft IS/MND, the Lead Agency utilizes the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2022.1.0 to analyze the Proposed Project's regional and localized construction and operational emissions for both winter and summer scenarios. However, the draft IS/MND document only reports the daily average emissions for both construction and operational phases,<sup>4</sup> which could lead to an underestimation of the project's worst-case air quality impacts. To ensure a comprehensive and accurate disclosure of potential air quality impacts, the draft IS/MND should report the *maximum* daily emissions rather than (or in addition to) the daily averages and evaluate them against South Coast AQMD's CEQA air quality daily significance thresholds. It is recommended that the Lead Agency update the draft IS/MND document accordingly.

### *South Coast AQMD Air Permits and Role as a Responsible Agency*

If implementation of the Proposed Project would require the use of new stationary and portable sources, including but not limited to emergency generators, fire water pumps, boilers, etc., air permits from South Coast AQMD will be required. The final CEQA document, whether a MND or EIR, should include a discussion about the potentially applicable rules that the Proposed Project needs to comply with. Those rules may include, for example, Rule 201 – Permit to Construct,<sup>5</sup> Rule 203 – Permit to Operate,<sup>6</sup> Rule 401 – Visible Emissions,<sup>7</sup> Rule 402 – Nuisance,<sup>8</sup> Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust,<sup>9</sup> Rule 1110.2 – Emissions from Gaseous and Liquid Fueled Engines,<sup>10</sup> Rule 1113 – Architectural Coating,<sup>11</sup> Rule 1166 – Volatile Organic Compound Emissions From Decontamination of Soil,<sup>12</sup> Rule 1179 – Publicly Owned Treatment Works Operation,<sup>13</sup> Regulation XIII – New Source Review,<sup>14</sup> Rule 1401 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants,<sup>15</sup> Rule 1466 – Control of Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants,<sup>16</sup> Rule 1470 – Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* Page 156.

<sup>5</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 201 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-ii/rule-201.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 203 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-ii/rule-203.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 401 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-401.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 402 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-402.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 403 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-403>

<sup>10</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1110.2 available at [https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/r1110\\_2.pdf](https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/r1110_2.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1113 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/r1113.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1166 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1166.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1179 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1179.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> South Coast AQMD. Regulation XIII available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/regulation-xiii>

<sup>15</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1401 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1401.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1466 available <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1466.pdf>

and Other Compression Ignition Engines,<sup>17</sup> etc. It is important to note that when air permits from South Coast AQMD are required, the role of South Coast AQMD changes from a Commenting Agency to a Responsible Agency under CEQA. In addition, if South Coast AQMD is identified as a Responsible Agency, per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15086, the Lead Agency is required to consult with South Coast AQMD.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15096 sets forth specific procedures for a Responsible Agency, including making a decision on the adequacy of the CEQA document for use as part of the process for conducting a review of the Proposed Project and issuing discretionary approvals. Moreover, it is important to note that if a Responsible Agency determines that a CEQA document is not adequate to rely upon for its discretionary approvals, the Responsible Agency must take further actions listed in CEQA Guideline Section 15096(e), which could have the effect of delaying the implementation of the Proposed Project. In its role as CEQA Responsible Agency, the South Coast AQMD is obligated to ensure that the CEQA document prepared for this Proposed Project contains a sufficient project description and analysis to be relied upon in order to issue any discretionary approvals that may be needed for air permits. South Coast AQMD is concerned that the project description and analysis in its current form in the MND is inadequate to be relied upon for this purpose. Moreover, based on the Appendix (A-1) Health Risk Assessment document, the gas station Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was performed using the SCAQMD RiskTool (V1.105). However, there is an updated HRA Tool and AERMOD-Ready Meteorological Data Files,<sup>18</sup> can be used to evaluate the Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk (MICR). The lead agency is advised to rerun the modeling files for the individual gas station using the latest version of South Coast AQMD RiskTool.

The final CEQA document should be revised to include a discussion about any and all new stationary and portable equipment requiring South Coast AQMD air permits, provide the evaluation of their air quality and greenhouse gas impacts, and identify South Coast AQMD as a Responsible Agency for the Proposed Project as this information will be relied upon as the basis for the permit conditions and emission limits for the air permit(s). Please contact South Coast AQMD's Engineering and Permitting staff at (909) 396-3385 for questions regarding what types of equipment would require air permits. For more general information on permits, please visit South Coast AQMD's webpage at <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/permits>.

### Conclusion

The Lead Agency is recommended to revise the CEQA analysis to address the aforementioned comments and provide the necessary evidence to sufficiently support the conclusions reached. If the requested information and analysis are not included in the final CEQA document, either the Final MND or other type of CEQA document, the Lead Agency should provide reasons for not doing so. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21092.5(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15074, prior to approving the Proposed Project, the Lead Agency shall consider the MND for adoption together with any comments received during the public review process and notify each public agency when any public hearings are scheduled. Please provide

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<sup>17</sup> South Coast AQMD. Rule 1470 available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1470.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> [Health Risk Assessment Tool and AERMOD-Ready Meteorological Data Files](#)

South Coast AQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final MND. When responding to issues raised in the comments, detailed reasons supported by substantial evidence in the record explaining why specific comments and suggestions are not accepted must be provided. In addition, if the Lead Agency decides to adopt the Final MND, please provide South Coast AQMD with a notice of any scheduled public hearing(s).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. South Coast AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address any air quality questions that may arise from this comment letter. Please contact Sahar Ghadimi, Air Quality Specialist, at [sghadimi@aqmd.gov](mailto:sghadimi@aqmd.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Sam Wang*

Sam Wang

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Planning, Rule Development & Implementation

SW:SG

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