

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

To: County Clerks
Counties of Los Angeles, Orange,
Riverside and San Bernardino

From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Memorandum of Understanding Between the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the City of Los Angeles Department of Airports

Project Location: The project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) and Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be implemented at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) which is located at 1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed project is comprised of: 1) a voluntary agreement related to activities LAX has already agreed to implement as specified in the MOU between the South Coast AQMD and the City of Los Angeles Department of Airports to reduce emissions from non-aircraft mobile sources in accordance with the LAX Air Quality Improvement Plan (AQIM); and 2) South Coast AQMD’s enforceable commitment to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to achieve reductions in oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions, to which the MOU for LAX will contribute. The MOU for LAX specifies the following AQIM measures from the LAX AQIM that are capable of achieving State Implementation Plan (SIP) creditable emission reductions: 1) the ground support equipment emission reduction policy; 2) the LAX alternative fuel vehicle incentive program; and 3) the zero emission bus program. The potential NOx emission reductions to be credited into the SIP, to which the MOU for LAX will contribute a portion, are estimated to be 0.52 and 0.37 ton per day in 2023 and 2031, respectively.

Public Agency Approving Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Agency Carrying Out Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection

CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. Because the acts of South Coast AQMD and the City of Los Angeles Department of Airports voluntarily agreeing to enter into a MOU, and quantifying emissions for the purpose of establishing an enforceable commitment are administrative and procedural in nature, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Further, no new physical impacts beyond the potential emission reductions that were previously analyzed under CEQA by the City of Los Angeles Department of Airports for the LAX AQIM will be expected to occur. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. As provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection, the proposed project is also exempt from CEQA because it will consist of basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities and will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Further, because the proposed project is designed to further protect or enhance the environment by supporting emission reductions from non-aircraft mobile sources within South Coast AQMD’s jurisdiction, the proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. There is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA.

Date When Project Will Be Considered for Approval (subject to change):

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: December 6, 2019; South Coast AQMD Headquarters

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature:



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