

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

To: Governor's Office of Planning and Research -
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth St, Suite 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502

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

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices

Project Location: The project location is the portion 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) as defined in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 60104.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: To satisfy the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requirement to submit a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) contingency measure that provides for additional ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards emission reductions in the event that the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) fails to comply with an applicable Clean Air Act milestone, amendments to Rule 445 are proposed that would establish contingency measures for the applicable ozone standards. Specifically, Proposed Amended Rule 445 would: 1) establish an automatic Basin-wide No-Burn day that is triggered when the daily maximum 8-hour ozone air quality is forecast to exceed 80 parts per billion (ppb) in any Source Receptor Area; 2) automatically reduce the ozone threshold to 75 ppb and 70 ppb if the U.S. EPA makes a secondary and tertiary finding, respectively, of a failure to comply with a milestone or attainment requirement by the applicable due date ; and 3) add contingent ozone No-Burn days to the definition of wood-burning season (currently November, December, January, and February) to include additional months (September, October, March, and April). Existing rule provisions regarding PM 2.5 remain unchanged. Other minor proposed amendments include additional definitions of terms used in the rule, and revisions to improve rule implementation and clarify existing requirements.

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 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: Since the adoption of additional RFP contingency measures for ozone in accordance with U.S. EPA requirements is administrative 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. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. In addition, the proposed project is designed as a backstop measure to further prevent the creation of additional ozone from wood-burning devices on days when ozone levels are forecasted to exceed the applicable threshold and thus, is considered an action to protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption apply to the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions.

Date of Project Approval:

Special Meeting of the South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: October 27, 2020

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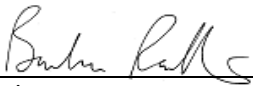
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