

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

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**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

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**Project Title:** Proposed Rule 1147.1 – NOx Reductions from Aggregate Dryers

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**Project Location:** The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (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 portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** South Coast AQMD has developed Proposed Rule (PR) 1147.1 to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission limits, while limiting carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, from gaseous fuel-fired aggregate dryers currently regulated by South Coast AQMD Rule 1147 - NOx Reductions from Miscellaneous Sources, in the "asphalt manufacturing" category. PR 1147.1 contains: 1) proposed emission limits of 30 parts per million (ppm) NOx and 1,000 ppm CO, which represent Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT); 2) compliance deadlines with an implementation schedule that takes into consideration equipment age, the existing permitted NOx limit, the number of units per facility, and whether facilities have multiple pieces of equipment subject to multiple source-specific command-and-control rules; and 3) monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements. Dryers with a rated heat input less than 2,000,000 British thermal units per hour or that emit less than one pound per day of NOx will continue to be subject to Rule 1147. PR 1147.1 is expected to achieve initial NOx emission reductions of 0.01 ton per day (tpd) by July 1, 2025 and 0.04 tpd by July 1, 2056.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:** South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:** South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**Exempt Status:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

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**Reasons why project is exempt:** 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. Since the only physical modifications that may occur as a result of the proposed project are associated with retrofitting dryers with low-NOx burners or equipment replacement at the end of its useful life, which may be achieved without involving construction or via minimal construction activities, depending on the affected facility, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause 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.

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**Date of Project Approval:**

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: August 6, 2021

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**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



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Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources