

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

To: County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino; and Governor’s Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse	From: South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 219 – Equipment Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II, and Proposed Amended Rule 222 – Filing Requirements for Specific Emission Sources Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II

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.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Proposed Amended Rule 219 (PAR 219) contains changes to: 1) address comments raised by United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA); 2) address South Coast AQMD Governing Board’s direction to encourage the use of low-emission technologies; 3) remove rule ambiguities and improve clarity; and 4) address stakeholder requests. The key changes include: 1) adding new equipment categories that are exempt from permitting requirements including ultraviolet (UV)/electron beam (EB)/ UV light emitting diodes (LED) technology and other low-emission curing technologies, and gas insulating equipment that has a low potential to emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 2) adding a separate exemption for small food ovens with no process VOC emissions that are not subject to registration requirements in Rule 222; 3) updating emissions thresholds for non-Title V agricultural sources; 4) clarifying that recordkeeping requirements apply to all emission sources and removing two compliance options which do not require continuous recordkeeping requirements for Printing and Reproduction Equipment and Coating and Adhesive Process/Equipment; 5) removing Rule 222 requirements from Rule 219 since registration is not the basis for determining if specific equipment should be exempted from permit requirements; 6) clarifying that the exemption from permitting for identical replacement in whole or in part of any equipment at federal major sources that has been issued a permit must be based on U.S. EPA guidance in determining what qualifies as “routine maintenance, repair, and replacement” (RMRR); and 7) amending the exemption provisions specific to remote reservoir cleaners and manually operated abrasive blasting cabinets. PAR 219 further includes other edits throughout the rule to improve clarity, consistency, enforceability and to remove ambiguity, including restructuring the format to align with other South Coast AQMD rules without changing rule requirements. Implementation of PAR 219 will improve enforceability, clarify recordkeeping, and may encourage the usage of low-emission technologies. Proposed Amended Rule 222 (PAR 222) includes: 1) updates to align with the changes proposed in PAR 219; 2) minor rule language revisions; 3) an additional recordkeeping option for food ovens; and 4) a new subdivision for exemptions to improve rule clarity. Implementing PAR 219 and PAR 222 will benefit stakeholders by improving clarity and overall understanding of requirements by removing ambiguities and providing additional options for selecting low-emission technologies.

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 219 and PAR 222) 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. The proposed project contains revisions to improve clarity and enforceability of both rules without requiring physical modifications. Further, PAR 219 adds new equipment categories that are eligible to be exempted from permitting requirements because they have low potential to emit. Both PAR 219 and PAR 222 will continue to encourage the use of equipment with fewer emissions relative to other equipment that would require an air permit, resulting in a potential but unquantifiable benefit to air quality such that it can be seen with certainty that implementing PAR 219 and PAR 222 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.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: April 7, 2023

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature:  *Barbara Radlein* April 7, 2023

Barbara Radlein
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Planning, Rule Development, and
Implementation