

**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

Project Title: Proposed Rule 316.2 – Fees for Rule 2306

Project Location: Proposed Rule (PR) 316.2 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: PR 316.2 establishes fees for owners and operators of freight rail yards which will be used to fund reasonable operating expenses incurred by South Coast AQMD implementing PR 2306 – Freight Rail Yards. PR 316.2 applies to owners and operators of proposed, new, and existing freight rail yards subject to PR 2306 and specifies: 1) fees for submitting the various reports and notifications required by PR 2306; 2) payment due dates; and 3) service charges for any returned checks. While there will be no emission reductions associated with its implementation, PR 316.2 will ensure that the South Coast AQMD will have the necessary resources to provide necessary cost recovery while implementing PR 2306 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 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PR 316.2) 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. PR 316.2 is statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because it involves charges established by the South Coast AQMD, a public agency, for the purpose of meeting operating expenses associated with implementing PR 2306.

Date of Project Approval:

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: August 2, 2024

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Email:	Fax:
Jivar Afshar	(909) 396-2040	jafshar@aqmd.gov	(909) 396-3982

PR 316.2 Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Email:	Fax:
Cindy Guzman De La Rocha	(909) 396-3209	RailyardISR@aqmd.gov	(909) 396-3982

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



August 2, 2024

Kevin Ni
Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and
Implementation