

**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 Amended Regulation XXX – Title V Permits

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: Regulation XXX – Title V Permits contains the permitting process and requirements established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in the 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act. Proposed Amended Regulation XXX – Title V Permits (Proposed Amended Regulation XXX) is comprised of: 1) Proposed Amended Rule 3002 – Requirements (PAR 3002) which seeks to remove the emergency affirmative defense provisions as directed by U.S. EPA's decision on August 21, 2023; 2) Proposed Amended Rule 3001 – Applicability (PAR 3001), PAR 3002 and Proposed Amended Rule 3008 – Potential to Emit Limitations (PAR 3008) which seek to remove the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission threshold for Title V permit applicability and GHG emission limits derived from U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule to be consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Utility Air Regulation Group v. EPA*, 573 U.S. 302 (2014); 3) Proposed Amended Rule 3003 – Applications (PAR 3003) which seeks to correct a reference to Rule 3002; and 4) Proposed Amended Rule 3004 – Permit Types and Content (PAR 3004) which seeks to remove references which correspond to the proposed removal of provisions in PAR 3002. While implementation of the proposed project will not result in any changes in emissions, Proposed Amended Regulation XXX will benefit stakeholders by having improved clarity when implementing the applicable 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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15321 – Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed Proposed Amended Regulation XXX 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 corrections to and/or removal of references from provisions in PAR 3001, PAR 3002, PAR 3003, PAR 3004, and PAR 3008 in response to U.S. EPA's direction and/or legal decisions are administrative in nature and are not expected to require any physical modifications. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may 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. The proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment because the proposed amendments are designed to further protect or enhance the environment; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15321 – Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies because the proposed amendments clarify the enforcement requirements. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions apply to the proposed project.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

Date of Project Approval:

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: January 10, 2025

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Proposed Amended Regulation XXX

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature:



January 10, 2025

Kevin Ni
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