

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

**To:** Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate  
Innovation – 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 462 – Organic Liquid Loading

**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:** Rule 462 seeks to control emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) originating from bulk terminals and other facilities that load organic liquids into tank trucks, trailers, or railroad tank cars. Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 462 partially implements Control Measure FUG-01 – Improved Leak Detection and Repair, of the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan by: 1) requiring monthly optical gas imaging (OGI) inspections; 2) requiring periodic source tests on vapor control systems at Class A facilities (facilities which load 20,000 gallons or more of organic liquids per day); 3) reducing VOC limits for vapor control systems at Class A facilities from 0.08 to 0.04 pound per 1,000 gallons of organic liquid transferred; and 4) adding new and updated definitions, and implementing other minor changes for consistency and clarity. Additionally, PAR 462 introduces a contingency measure as required by the federal Clean Air Act, which, if triggered, would require bi-weekly OGI inspections. Implementation of PAR 462 is anticipated to benefit public health and ambient air quality by reducing VOC emissions by 0.34 ton per day plus an additional 0.01 ton per day if the contingency measure is triggered.

**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

**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. PAR 462 will achieve VOC emission reductions through more stringent VOC limits and by requiring frequent OGI inspections, which can be accomplished without physical modifications; thus, 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.

**Date of Project Approval:**

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: August 1, 2025

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

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



August 1, 2025

Kevin Ni  
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