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 1133 – Emission Reductions from Direct Land Application (PAR 1133); Proposed Amended Rule 1133.1 – Chipping and Grinding Operations (PAR 1133.1); Proposed Amended Rule 1133.2 – Emission Reductions from Co-Composting Operations (PAR 1133.2); and Proposed Amended Rule 1133.3 – Emission Reductions from Composting Operations (PAR 1133.3)

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: PAR 1133, PAR 1133.1, PAR 1133.2, and PAR 1133.3 are designed to implement Best Control Measure-10 (BCM-10) from the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard to further reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and ammonia from chipping and grinding operations, co-composting operations, and composting operations by regulating the supply of uncomposted greenwaste for direct land application. PAR 1133 establishes restrictions and prohibitions on suppliers of uncomposted greenwaste for direct land application unless uncomposted greenwaste is applied in a manner to minimize VOC and ammonia emissions. PAR 1133.1, PAR 1133.2, and PAR 1133.3 contain the information gathering elements formerly located within Rule 1133 to enable PAR 1133 to implement BCM-10. Additionally, PAR 1133.2 will introduce composting best management practices for previously uncontrolled existing co-composting operations. Implementation of the proposed project will benefit public health and ambient air quality by reducing VOC emissions by 2.34 tons per day and reducing ammonia emissions by 0.19 ton per day from approximately 98 facilities.

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

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. The proposed project, PAR 1133, PAR 1133.1, PAR 1133.2, and PAR 1133.3, will achieve emission reductions of VOC and ammonia through requiring facilities to follow the best management practices when conducting composting, chipping, and grinding activities, 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. The proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, because PAR 1133, PAR 1133.1, PAR 1133.2, and PAR 1133.3 are intended to further protect or enhance the environment by improving public health and air quality through anticipated emission reductions of VOC and ammonia. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions, apply to the proposed project.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: September 5, 2025		
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PAR 1133, PAR 1133.1, PAR 1133.2, and PAR 1133.3 Contact Person: Areio Soltani	**Phone Number:** (909) 396-3318	**Email:** ASoltani2@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** Kevin Ni *September 5, 2025*

Kevin Ni
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