

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO: Contra Costa County
Clerk Recorder's Office
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553**

**FROM: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105**

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE § 21152(b)
AND CEQA GUIDELINES § 15062.**

**Project Title: CHEMTRADE WEST US LLC – Renewal of an Authority to Construct for an Alteration of
Existing Source 1, Sulfuric Acid Plant (Air District Application 31721)**

Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District),
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; Kevin Perez, Air Quality Engineer, Telephone: (415)
749-8643, Email: kperez@baaqmd.gov

Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project: Chemtrade West US LLC (Chemtrade)

Project Applicant Mailing Address: 525 Castro Street, Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA 94801

Project Applicant Contact Person: Bashar Alwash, Plant Manager, Chemtrade West US LLC; Telephone:
(510) 232-7193; Email: balwash@chemtradelogistics.com

Project Location: 525 Castro Street, Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA 94801

Project Description: This permit action renews the Authority to Construct for an alteration. Chemtrade was issued an Authority to Construct to physically alter a mist eliminator (Abatement device 2) that abates the facility's sulfuric acid plant (Source 1). The Authority to Construct for this alteration expired on January 16, 2025. Chemtrade expects to complete the work to alter mist eliminator in either the first or second quarter of 2026. The new expiration date after the Authority to Construct is renewed is January 16, 2027. The renewed Authority to Construct will include no changes to proposed permit conditions that limit the annual production throughput and daily and annual emissions. Therefore, the physical changes will continue to constitute an alteration per Regulation 2-1-233.

Finding of Exemption:

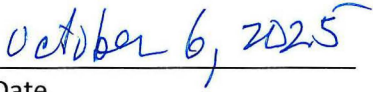
- This permit application is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the Air District's evaluation is a ministerial action (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a)) conducted using the fixed standards and objective measurements in the Air District's rules and regulations.
- The Air District has also determined that the renewal of this Authority to Construct is categorically exempt from CEQA because the project involves no expansion of use beyond that previously existing at the time of the Air District's CEQA determination. (CEQA Guidelines § 15301).

Basis for Exemption: The Air District's renewal of the Authority to Construct for this alteration is exempt under the ministerial action exemption because it does not involve the exercise of engineering judgment or discretion. Also, the Class 1 categorical exemption applies because it does not authorize any expansion of the existing or former use. Because there will be no expansion in use at the sulfuric acid plant, the project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines § 15301.

Further, based on the review of the permit application materials, the project will not result in any additional or different environmental impacts beyond what is already entailed in the applicant's existing use of the source. In making the determination that this application is categorically exempt: the Air District reviewed the permit application materials which indicate that there is no potential for a significant adverse environmental impact from the project; and the Air District determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, or due to cumulative impacts from successive projects of the same type in the same place.



Pamela J. Leong
Director of Engineering
Bay Area Air Quality Management District



Date