

**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 1111 – Reduction of NOx Emissions from Natural-Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces

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 1111, which is designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from residential and commercial gas-fired fan-type space heating furnaces, includes an alternate compliance option allowing manufacturers to pay a per-unit mitigation fee depending on the furnace type, in lieu of providing furnaces capable of achieving the applicable NOx emission limits. Proposed Amended Rule 1111 (PAR 1111) seeks to extend the end date of the mitigation fee alternate compliance option for mobile home furnaces with a NOx emission rate of 40 nanogram per Joule (ng/J) from September 30, 2025 to September 30, 2030 which will result in delayed NOx emission reductions by approximately 0.014 ton per day (equivalent to 27 pounds per day). However, by providing additional time for manufacturers of mobile home furnaces to develop lower NOx-emitting units, manufacturers of mobile homes as well as owners of mobile homes who may be in need of replacing their furnaces during the next five years will have a benefit of uninterrupted access to commercially available equipment.

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 (PAR 1111) 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. Since the quantity of delayed NOx emission reductions are expected to be temporary and less than the South Coast AQMD air quality significance threshold for NOx, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the PAR 1111 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: January 9, 2026

CEQA Contact Person:
Sina Taghvaei, Ph.D.

Phone Number:
(909) 396-2192

Email:
staghvaei@aqmd.gov

PAR 1111 Contact Person:
Jennifer Vinh

Phone Number:
(909) 396-2148

Email:
jvinh@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



January 9, 2026

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