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 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares

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 1118 was adopted to minimize emissions from flaring operations at petroleum refineries, sulfur recovery units, and hydrogen production plants that primarily supply hydrogen to refinery operations. Rule 1118 was most recently amended in 2024 to update monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements, as well as flare event notification requirements, amongst other edits. Proposed Amended Rule 1118 (PAR 1118) consists of administrative changes to: 1) replace the standard compliance date placeholder language in the monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements with a specific compliance date; and 2) clarify flare event notification requirements. While no emission reductions are expected, PAR 1118 will benefit stakeholders by providing improved clarity for implementing the applicable requirements.

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

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. Since the proposed project (PAR 1118) makes administrative changes which will not require physical modifications, no adverse environmental impacts are expected. 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.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: January 9, 2026

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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** *January 9, 2026*

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