

**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 2011 – Requirements for Monitoring, Reporting, and Recordkeeping for Oxides of Sulfur (SOx) Emissions, Proposed Amended Rule 2012 – Requirements for Monitoring, Reporting, and Recordkeeping for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) Emissions, and Proposed Amended Rule 2015 – Backstop Provisions

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: Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 2011, PAR 2012, and PAR 2015 seek to update and modernize the emissions reporting and annual auditing requirements in Regulation XX – Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM). PAR 2011 and PAR 2012 establish a new compliance option which will allow the use of an alternative electronic reporting system approved by the Executive Officer in lieu of using a modem-based reporting system. PAR 2015 streamlines and updates the requirements for RECLAIM annual audit reports by: 1) removing the “per capita exposure to air pollution” and “toxic risk reductions” components, as those items are covered comprehensively in South Coast AQMD's Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study; 2) clarifying the focus of compliance assessments; 3) removing the requirement to include seasonal fluctuations as historical data has not shown significant seasonal changes; 4) modifying how the audit report is provided to the Governing Board; and 5) revising the month when the RECLAIM annual audit is published. Minor corrections and clarifications to PAR 2011, PAR 2012, and PAR 2015 are also included. While no emission reductions are expected, expanding the emission reporting methods available to facilities for demonstrating compliance with the RECLAIM program, streamlining the annual audit report requirements, and updating the annual audit report procedures will benefit stakeholders by providing improved clarity for implementing the applicable requirements.

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 2011, PAR 2012 and PAR 2015) 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. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that implementation of PAR 2011, PAR 2012 and PAR 2015 may have a significant adverse effect on the environment because the proposed project includes clarifications and administrative changes without requiring any physical modifications. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

Date of Project Approval:

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: June 5, 2026

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



June 5, 2026

Kevin Ni

Program Supervisor, CEQA

Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation