

**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 1401 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants

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 1401 (PAR 1401) updates South Coast AQMD's health-risk-based permitting requirements for new, modified, or relocated equipment that emit toxic air contaminants (TACs). PAR 1401 incorporates new California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)-adopted risk values by adding nine new compounds to the Table I list of TACs, adding a new reference exposure level for one existing compound, adding 8-hour chronic hazard index requirements, removing the outdated Table II list of TACs with previously tentative risk values, and improving clarity and alignment with current risk assessment procedures. PAR 1401 requirements will not be applied retroactively to existing equipment or sources. However, new, modified or relocated equipment emitting polymeric Hexamethylene Diisocyanate (HDI), para-chlorobenzotrifluoride (pCBtF), or tertiary butyl acetate (t-BAC) may require installation of enhanced air pollution control equipment in order to obtain a permit to operate. Implementation of PAR 1401 will provide improved health protective measures to minimize TAC emissions and reduce exposure and associated risk which will benefit workers, nearby receptors, and surrounding communities.

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 1401) 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 1401 may have a significant adverse effect on the environment because: 1) installation of new, enhanced air pollution control equipment or the modification of existing air pollution control equipment (if required), would typically involve minimal construction activities and minor operational differences and would only apply to new, modified, or relocated equipment that emits polymeric HDI, pCBtF, or t-BAC; and 2) other changes are administrative in nature. 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: August 7, 2026

CEQA Contact Person:

Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D.

Phone Number:

(909) 396-3022

Email:

fkhalaj@aqmd.gov

PAR 1401 Contact Person:

Tiffani To

Phone Number:

(909) 396-2738

Email:

tto@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



August 7, 2026

Kevin Ni

Program Supervisor, CEQA

Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation