ORIGINAL

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 CEQA § 21152(b) AND CEQA GUIDELINES § 15062.

PROJECT TITLE: Eco Services Operations Corporation – Issuance of a Permit to Operate for an alteration to increase stack height of S-1 Sulfuric Acid Plant, (Air District Application 753382).

Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District); Contact Person: Christopher Ablaza, Air Quality Engineer II; 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; Telephone: (415) 749-5139; Email: cablaza@baaqmd.gov

Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project: Eco Services Operations Corporation (Eco Services).

Project Applicant Mailing Address: 100 Mococo Road, Martinez, CA 94553.

Project Applicant Contact Person: Neil Baranik, Environmental Manager, Eco Services Operations Corporation; 100 Mococo Road, Martinez, CA 94553; Telephone: (925) 313-8227; Email: neil.baranik@eco-services.com

Project Location: 100 Mococo Road, Martinez, Contra Costa County, CA 94553; Nearest Cross Street: Bridgehead Road.

Project Description:

This permit action issues a Permit to Operate for an alteration to the following source at Eco Services:

S-1 **Sulfuric Acid Plant**
Including: furnace, dust chamber, waste heat boiler, quench tower, entrainment separator, mud settler, direct contact gas cooling tower and heat exchanger, with two electrostatic precipitators, dry tower, main gas blower, two cold heat exchangers, hot heat exchanger, converter, and absorbing tower
Abated by A-11, Ammonia Scrubber

Eco Services has applied for an alteration to increase the stack height of S-1 by 7 feet and 1 inch and to relocate the Reference Method (RM) test ports by replacing the existing stack with a new stack of the same inner diameter. The proposed project is in response to Bay Area Air District Notices of Violation (NOVs) concerning EPA 40 CFR Part 60, Appendix B, Performance Specification 2. No other changes to the process, throughput, control equipment, or emissions are proposed at S-1 as part of this project.

ORIGINAL

Finding of Exemption:

The issuance of the Permit to Operate is ministerial, so it is not subject to CEQA (Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines § 15268(a)). The Air District has also determined that this permit action is exempt from CEQA because the project involves only a minor alteration to an existing facility, which is subject to the "Class 1" categorical exemption with negligible or no expansion of the existing use (CEQA Guidelines § 15301).

Basis for Exemption:

Approval of this permit application is not subject to CEQA because it is ministerial. The Air District's regulatory requirements that governed the approval of this project did not allow for any subjective judgement related to whether or how the project may be carried out. The project complied with objective numerical standards in the Air District's permitting rules, which do not allow for or require any subjective judgment or discretion to interpret or apply. The Air District is legally compelled to approve the project where it complies with such standards. In addition, neither a Best Available Control Technology (BACT) nor a Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (TBACT) determination were required. The applicant has included in its permit application CEQA-related information (CEQA Appendix H) that demonstrates that the project has no potential for resulting in any significant environmental impacts.

Additionally, the project is a minor alteration to an existing facility with negligible or no expansion of existing use. The change does not constitute as a "modification" that requires New Source Review permitting. No additional permit conditions or changes are proposed with this project. The proposed alteration pertains to the monitoring configuration associated with EPA Method 1 and Performance Specification 2 and does not change the underlying process equipment or emissions.

Fred Tanaka for

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

August 11, 2026
Date