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 PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE § 21080(b)(1) AND CEQA GUIDELINES §§ 15268(a).**

Project Title: **CHEMTRADE WEST US LLC – Permit to Operate for a Modification of Existing Source 16, Sulfuric Acid Storage Tank #13 (Air District Application 782879).**

Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; Contact Person: Kevin Perez, Senior Air Quality Engineer, Telephone: (415) 749-8643, Email: kperez@baaqmd.gov

Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project: Chemtrade West US LLC (Chemtrade).

Project Applicant Mailing Address: 525 Castro Street, Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA 94801.

Project Applicant Contact Person: Bashar Alwash, Plant Manager, Chemtrade West US LLC, 525 Castro Street, Richmond, CA 94801; Telephone: (510) 232-7193; Email: balwash@chemtradelogistics.com

Project Location: 525 Castro Street, Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA 94801. Nearest Cross Street: Richmond Lane.

Project Description:
This permit action issues a Permit to Operate for a change in Permit Condition 13215. Chemtrade requested to remove the requirement to abate emissions from Source 16 with Abatement Device 4 (Activated Carbon Beds) and Abatement Device 5 (Packed Tower Caustic Scrubber). In addition, Chemtrade requested an increase of the permitted throughput of fresh sulfuric acid at Source 16 from 146,000 tons per year to 219,000 tons per year.

The proposed change is considered a modification of Source 16 because the potential to emit will increase.

Finding of Exemption:
The Air District has determined that the issuance of this Permit to Operate for a modification is statutorily exempt from CEQA.

Basis for Exemption:
The Air District's evaluation and permit action for this application was conducted using the fixed standards and objective measures in the Air District's rules and regulations. Also, the permit application did not trigger Best Available Control Technology (BACT) or Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (TBACT), and therefore did not allow room for differences in professional opinion or judgement about whether the outcomes of this permit action complies with applicable regulations, nor discretion from the Air District to deny or shape the outcomes of the permit action. Therefore, this permit action is not subject to CEQA because the Air District's evaluation is a ministerial action (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a)).

Fred Tmaka for

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

November 9, 2026

Date