



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED RULE 1325 – FEDERAL PM_{2.5} NEW SOURCE REVIEW PROGRAM

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above.

The SCAQMD has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1), the first step of a three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA. The currently proposed rule would incorporate and adopt by reference U.S. EPA's requirements for PM_{2.5} into Regulation XIII- New Source Review (NSR). Proposed Rule (PR) 1325 – Federal PM_{2.5} New Source Review Program – would apply to new and modified major sources that trigger the NSR threshold for PM_{2.5}. The proposed rule mirrors existing federal requirements for PM_{2.5} that are already in effect.

The proposed rule incorporates existing federal regulations into Regulation XIII and does not require any major modifications or changes to existing operations. PR 1325 qualifies for one statutory exemption (§15061 (b)(3)) and one categorical exemption (§15308). The Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties immediately following the adoption of the proposed project.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Jeff Inabinet (c/o Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Inabinet can also be reached at (909) 396-2453. Questions regarding Proposed Rule 1325 should be directed to Mr. Shams Hasan at (909) 396-2338.

Date: June 3, 2011

Signature: _____

Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor
CEQA Unit
Planning, Rule Development &
Area Sources

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	From: South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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Project Title:

Proposed Rule 1325 – Federal PM_{2.5} New Source Review Program

Project Location:

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) area of jurisdiction consisting of the four-county South Coast Air Basin (Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the proposed rule is to incorporate and adopt by reference U.S. EPA's existing requirements for PM_{2.5} that are already in effect into Regulation XIII- New Source Review (NSR). Proposed Rule 1325 – Federal PM_{2.5} NSR Program – would apply to new and modified major sources that trigger the NSR threshold for PM_{2.5}. A major source is defined as having a potential to emit 100 tons per year of PM_{2.5}. The proposed rule mirrors federal requirements for PM_{2.5}. Rule thresholds, major modification levels, emission offsets, and other requirements of the proposed rule are taken directly from U.S. EPA requirements. It is anticipated that Proposed Rule 1325 will have little impact on existing sources.

Public Agency Approving Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Agency Carrying Out Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:

Three Step Process [CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1)];
Common Sense Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3)]; and
Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment [CEQA Guidelines §15308]

Reasons why project is exempt:

The SCAQMD has reviewed Proposed Rule 1325, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1) – Three Step Process, and CEQA Guidelines §15061 – Review for Exemption, and has determined that the proposed rule is exempt from CEQA for the following reasons. SCAQMD proposes to incorporate existing federal requirements already in effect for PM_{2.5}. The proposed rule is categorically exempt because it is considered an action to protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15308 – Class 8 Categorical Exemption. Any potential facilities affected by the proposed rule in the future would still be subject to modeling requirements and best available control technology (BACT) requirements for PM₁₀, which is the same as BACT for PM_{2.5}. Therefore, no new or additional control equipment would be required as a result of Proposed Rule 1325. As a result, Proposed Rule 1325 is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) and categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15308.

Certification Date:

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: June 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Jeff Inabinet	(909) 396-2453	(909) 396-3324	<jinabinet@aqmd.gov>

Rule Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Shams Hasan	(909) 396-2338	(909) 396-3324	<shasan@aqmd.gov>

Date Received for Filing _____

Signature _____

Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor - CEQA
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources