

## 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

---

**Project Title:**

Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood Burning Devices and Proposed Amended Rule 444 - Open Burning with the exception of amendments related to beach fire rings

---

**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:**

Amended Rule 445 clarifies rule applicability to solid fuel cooking devices, requires commercial firewood facilities to label solid fuel products for sale to inform the public of the Check Before You Burn program, lowers the PM2.5 concentration threshold used for the mandatory winter burning curtailment program from 35 to 30 µg/m3, and establishes a mechanism whereby the mandatory winter burning curtailment program would apply Basinwide if a no burn day is forecast for a source receptor area that exceeds the 24-hour PM2.5 concentration threshold. Amended Rule 444 adds a definition for product testing, establishes an exemption from Rule 444 for product testing and establishes winter season burn restrictions consistent with PAR 445. As adopted by the Board on May 3, 2013, Amended Rule 444 does not include beach burning requirements, which include proposed paragraphs (b)(11) and (c)(7), subparagraphs (d)(3)(G) and paragraphs (d)(4), (h)(5) and (6). A separate Notice of Exemption will be prepared for the separate action taken by the Governing Board related to beach burning if the Board adopts such amendments. The beach burning requirements will be presented to the Governing Board on July 12, 2013.

---

**Public Agency Approving Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

---

**Exempt Status:**

Actions Taken by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15308]

---

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The SCAQMD has reviewed amended Rules 444 and 445 and determined that the amendments are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15308 – Actions Taken by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment because the proposed amendments would reduce air pollution, better protect the public from the health impacts due to exposure to wood smoke and not generate significant adverse environmental impacts. Amended Rules 444 and 445 have no potential for generating significant adverse environmental impacts because amended Rule 444 incorporates the winter season burn restriction consistent with Rule 445, and amended Rule 445 prohibits burning in indoor or outdoor burning devices when PM2.5 concentration in the district exceeds 30 µg/m3.

---

**Project Approval Date:**

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: May 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

---

**CEQA Contact Person:**

Mr. Michael Krause

**Phone Number:**

(909) 396-2706

**Fax Number:**

(909) 396-3324

**Email:**

mkrause@aqmd.gov

---

**Rule Contact Person:**

Mr. Michael Laybourn

**Phone Number:**

(909) 396-3066

**Fax Number:**

(909) 396-3324

**Email:**

mlaybourn@aqmd.gov

---

Date Received for Filing \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Krause  
CEQA Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development  
and Area Sources