



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 AMENDED RULE 2202 – ROAD MOTOR VEHICLE MITIGATION OPTIONS, RULE 2202 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES, RULE 301 – PERMITTING AND ASSOCIATED FEES, AND RULE 311 AIR QUALITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM FEES

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.

In January 2014, the SCAQMD Governing Board approved a moratorium on the transfer of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) into Rule 2202, beginning January 10, 2014 through July 1, 2014. SCAQMD staff was directed to review the status of stationary source ERC banks and the potential impact of credit transfers into Rule 2202. The proposed project would amend Rule 2202 - On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options, the accompanying rule Implementation Guidelines, Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees, and Rule 311 Air Quality Investment Program (AQIP) Fees. Sections of Rule 2202 and the Implementation Guidelines will be amended to preclude the transfer of ERCs and clarify the use of other existing emission credits in the Rule 2202 program. Rule 301 will be amended to include a Short Term Emission Reduction Credit (STERC) transfer fee. AQIP is a program option for applicable worksites within Rule 2202. The proposed project would reduce the per employee fee to more accurately reflect the costs to obtain the required emission reductions.

Pursuant to CEQA, the SCAQMD is the Lead Agency and has reviewed the proposed project mentioned above pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §§15002 (k)(1) and 15061. The proposed amendments do not have the potential to significantly affect air quality or any other environmental categories because they are administrative in nature in that they more specifically implement current provisions of Rule 2202. As a result, no new adverse impacts on the environment are expected from the proposed project. Since it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project has no potential to adversely impact air quality or any other environmental area, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15062 - Notice of Exemption. 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.

Date: June 6, 2014

Signature: _____

Michael Krause
Program Supervisor – CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development &
Area Sources

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk County of Los Angeles 12400 E. Imperial Hwy, Room 2001 Norwalk, California 90650	From: South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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Project Title:

Proposed Amended Rule 2202 – -Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options, Rule 2202 Implementation Guidelines, Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees, and Rule 311 Air Quality Investment Program Fees

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:

In January 2014, the SCAQMD Governing Board approved a moratorium on the transfer of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) into Rule 2202, beginning January 10, 2014 through July 1, 2014. SCAQMD staff was directed to review the status of stationary source ERC banks and the potential impact of credit transfers into Rule 2202. The proposed project would amend Rule 2202 - On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options, the accompanying rule Implementation Guidelines, Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees, and Rule 311 Air Quality Investment Program (AQIP) Fees. Sections of Rule 2202 and the Implementation Guidelines will be amended to address the use of ERCs and clarify the use of other existing emission credits. Rule 301 will be amended to include a Short Term Emission Reduction Credit (STERC) transfer fee. AQIP is a program option for applicable worksites within Rule 2202. The proposed project would reduce the per employee fee to more accurately reflect the costs to obtain the required emission reductions.

Public Agency Approving Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Agency Carrying Out Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:

General Concepts [CEQA Guidelines §15002 (k)(1)]; and
General Rule Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3)]

Reasons why project is exempt:

The SCAQMD has reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule 2202, Rule 301, and Rule 311, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1) – Three Step Process, and CEQA Guidelines §15061 – Review for Exemption and has determined that the proposed amendments are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3) – General Rule Exemption. The proposed amendments are not expected to adversely affect air quality or any other environmental categories because they are administrative in nature. As a result, no new adverse impacts on the environment are expected from the proposed project. Since it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project has no potential to adversely impact air quality or any other environmental area, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption.

Project Approval Date:

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: June 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Jeffrey Inabinet	(909) 396-2453	(909) 396-3324	jinabinet@aqmd.gov
Rule Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Ernest Lopez	(909) 396-3305	(909) 396-3324	elopez@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing _____

Signature _____

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