



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED RULE 1180 - REFINERY FENCELINE AND COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING

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

SCAQMD staff has reviewed the Proposed Rule 1180 – Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring and Accompanying Guidelines pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA.

SCAQMD staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that Proposed Rule 1180 and Accompanying Guidelines may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 - Notice of Exemption. If the proposed project is approved, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Sam Wang (c/o Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Wang can also be reached at (909) 396-2649. Mr. Daniel Garcia is also available at (909) 396-3304 to answer any questions regarding the proposed rule.

Date: October 31, 2017

Signature: 

Barbara Radlein
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rules, and Area Sources

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerks Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino	From: South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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Project Title: Proposed Rule (PR) 1180 - Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring

Project Location: The SCAQMD has jurisdiction over the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of 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 (SSAB) and Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The SCAQMD's jurisdiction includes the federal nonattainment area known as the Coachella Valley Planning Area, which is a sub-region of Riverside County and the SSAB.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Proposed Rule (PR) 1180 - Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring and Rule 1180 Refinery Fenceline Air Monitoring Plan Guidelines (Guidelines) were developed to implement Health and Safety Code Section 42705.6 by requiring petroleum refineries to collect continuous data of refinery air pollutant emissions, at or near their property boundaries, and to provide that data as quickly as possible to the public. In particular, PR 1180 contains requirements for petroleum refineries to install and operate continuous, fenceline air monitoring systems to monitor a comprehensive list of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants in real-time. PR 1180 also establishes a fee schedule, to be paid by the petroleum refineries, for the cost of designing, developing, installing, operating and maintaining refinery-related community air monitoring systems. PR 1180 exempts petroleum refineries that have a maximum capacity to process less than 40,000 barrels per day of crude oil.

Public Agency Approving Project: South Coast Air Quality Management District	Agency Carrying Out Project: South Coast Air Quality Management District
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Exempt Status:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule

Reasons why project is exempt: SCAQMD staff has reviewed PR 1180 and the accompanying Guidelines pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. To comply with PR 1180 requirements, petroleum refineries would be required to install and operate continuous, fenceline air monitoring systems to monitor a comprehensive list of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants in real-time. The construction and operational activities associated with the installation and operation of air monitoring systems due to implementing PR 1180 requirements are minimal. Therefore, SCAQMD staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that PR 1180 and the accompanying Guidelines may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, PR 1180 and the accompanying Guidelines are considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule.

Date When Project Will Be Considered for Approval (subject to change):

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: December 1, 2017; SCAQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person: Mr. Sam Wang	Phone Number: (909) 396-2649	Email: swang1@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3982
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Rules Contact Person: Mr. Daniel Garcia	Phone Number: (909) 396-3304	Email: dgarcia@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3324
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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** _____ *(Signed Upon Board Approval)*
Barbara Radlein
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources