



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 AMENDED RULE 301 – PERMITTING AND ASSOCIATED FEES

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.

The proposed project is amending Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees. SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project 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 is proposing amendments to Rule 301 that would restore SCAQMD's authority to charge for the preparation of a public notice for a permit for a significant project as defined in Rule 212(c), which was inadvertently deleted in the previous amendments to Rule 301. The proposed amendments to Rule 301 are identified as being strictly administrative in nature; as such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Additionally, the proposed amendments to Rule 301 involve fees charged by the SCAQMD, such that all of these amendments are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because the proposed amendments involve charges by a public agency for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, purchasing supplies, equipment and materials, and meeting financial reserve requirements. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. If the 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 my attention at the above address. I can also be reached at (909) 396-2716. Ms. Elaine Shen is also available at (909) 396-2715 to answer any questions regarding the proposed amended rule.

Date: December 5, 2017

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Radlein".

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
--	---

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees

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: SCAQMD staff is proposing amendments to Rule 301 that would restore SCAQMD’s authority to charge for the preparation of a public notice for a permit for a significant project as defined in Rule 212(c), which was inadvertently deleted in the previous amendments to Rule 301.

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

Exempt Status:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule
CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 - Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

Reasons why project is exempt: SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule 301 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. The proposed amendments to Rule 301 are identified as being strictly administrative in nature; as such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Additionally, the proposed amendments to Rule 301 involve fees charged by the SCAQMD, such that all of these amendments are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because the proposed amendments involve charges by a public agency for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, purchasing supplies, equipment and materials, and meeting financial reserve requirements. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. If the project is approved, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

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

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: January 5, 2018; SCAQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Email:	Fax:
Ms. Barbara Radlein	(909) 396-2716	bradlein@aqmd.gov	(909) 396-3982

Rule Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Email:	Fax:
Ms. Elaine Shen	(909) 396-2715	eshen@aqmd.gov	(909) 396-3324

Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** _____ *(Signed Upon Board Approval)*
Barbara Radlein
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources