

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
(CEQA)**

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 1480 – Ambient Monitoring and Sampling of Metal Toxic Air Contaminants

Project Location: The project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction which includes 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).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: South Coast AQMD staff is proposing Rule 1480 which establishes a process to require a facility to conduct ambient monitoring and sampling of metal toxic air contaminants if the facility meets specific criteria. The process includes an initial notice, request for information, notice of findings, and notice to designate the facility if criteria specified in the proposed rule are met. A facility that is designated will be required to submit a Monitoring and Sampling Plan and conduct ambient monitoring and sampling. The proposed rule includes an alternative monitoring and sampling provision where the facility can elect to have the South Coast AQMD conduct ambient monitoring and sampling for a fee. The proposed rule also has monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping provisions, and provisions to reduce and cease monitoring and sampling provided certain criteria are met.

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) – Common Sense Exemption
CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection
CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the South Coast AQMD staff as Lead Agency, has reviewed Proposed Rule (PR) 1480 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. Because Proposed Rule 1480 would only require very minor physical changes to occur at affected facilities as a result of complying with the proposed requirements to install monitoring equipment and conduct monitoring and sampling, and these activities would not be expected to adversely affect any environmental topic area, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. As provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection, the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA because it will consist of basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities and will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. In addition, because the proposed project is designed to further protect or enhance the environment by identifying areas with elevated concentrations of metal TACs, Proposed Rule 1480 is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. There is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA.

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

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: December 6, 2019; South Coast AQMD Headquarters

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Rule Contact Person: Mr. Min Sue	Phone Number: (909) 396-3241	Email: msue@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3640

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



Barbara Radlein
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Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources