

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

To: County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino; and Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse
From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1148.2 – Notification and Reporting Requirements for Oil and Gas Wells and Chemical Suppliers

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (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 portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1148.2 proposes to expand the notification requirements for facilities that operate onshore oil and gas wells and conduct oil and gas well drilling, well rework, well completion, and well injection activities. Specifically, PAR 1148.2 proposes to: 1) add four new definitions to further clarify the amendments being proposed; 2) revise the timing when notifications are required to occur from no less than 48 hours to no less than 72 hours prior to the start of drilling, well completion, rework or acidizing of an onshore oil, gas, or injection well; 3) require notification when 20 gallons or more of any chemical, excluding water, are used for chemical treatment activities; 4) add an alternative method for operators to provide notification to the South Coast AQMD if the Notification and Reporting Portal on the South Coast AQMD website is inaccessible; 5) reduce the number of allowable extensions from five to three when the start date and time of a notification for the drilling, well completion, well rework, or chemical treatment of an onshore oil or gas well specified in a notification is anticipated to occur after the originally projected 24-hour window of the start date and time; 6) require workover rig operations and injection well acidizing to be included in notifications; 7) require written notification (US Mail or personal service) and recordkeeping for acidizing jobs located near sensitive receptors; 8) delete an obsolete reporting requirement; and 9) incorporate additional minor changes for consistency and clarity. Implementation of PAR 1148.2 will increase community awareness of oil and gas well activities, but not result in emission reductions.

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) – Common Sense Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1148.2) 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 PAR 1148.2 is a notification and reporting rule and will not require physical modifications, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: February 3, 2023

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



February 3, 2023

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Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation