



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

Kim White, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479

press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Governing Board adopts rules to reduce pollution from refineries by nearly 8 tons per day, protect communities

DIAMOND BAR, CA – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board adopted Rule 1109.1 which requires additional emissions controls on equipment, reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution by almost eight tons per day (tpd). NOx is a precursor to ozone (smog) and the reductions attained by this rule will make up 40 percent of the overall reductions needed by stationary sources to meet federal standards by 2031.

“Once implemented, this rule will have immediate benefits to our air quality, especially for those living near these facilities who are directly impacted,” said Ben J. Benoit, Chair of the South Coast AQMD Governing Board. “We estimate the public health benefits achieved through this rule will help avoid 370 premature deaths and more than 6,200 asthma attacks.”

As part of the rule, facilities are required to apply for a permit that limits NOx and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from combustion equipment used as part of refinery operations. The rules are projected to reduce between 7.7 to 7.9 tpd of NOx over the next 14 years, with nearly half of those reductions expected by 2023. Approximately 75 percent of the emission reductions are anticipated to be achieved by 2027 with 90 percent being achieved by 2031. The rule will also have a positive economic impact resulting in 213 jobs added to the workforce every year.

In addition to petroleum refineries, Rule 1109.1 establishes NOx limits for asphalt plants, biofuel plants, hydrogen production plants and sulfuric acid plants. The rule will impact 16 facilities and nearly 300 pieces of combustion equipment such as boilers, gas turbines and vapor incinerators in the South Coast Air Quality Management’s jurisdiction.

Three companion rules (429.1, 1304, and 2005) were also adopted today to support Rule 1109.1 by providing exemptions for emission increases during startup, shutdown, commissioning, maintenance events, and for installation of add-on air pollution control equipment needed to meet the required NOx concentration limits.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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