



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## **South Coast AQMD Will Begin Rule Development to Reduce Emissions from Ports**

DIAMOND BAR – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) will begin a public process to develop an Indirect Source Rule to reduce emissions from the local ports. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the two busiest marine container ports in the nation and the largest emissions source in the South Coast Region.

The South Coast AQMD Governing Board had directed the agency to work with the Ports on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) until February 4, 2022, and then shift efforts to develop a rule (Proposed Rule 2304) if no agreement was reached. Although the Port of Long Beach’s proposal did include a number of clean air investments, the ports’ overall proposals did not provide sufficient measures to reduce emissions and also did not allow for enforceability should the agreed upon actions not be implemented.

“Communities adjacent to the ports are in the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile for air toxics cancer risk and have higher asthma rates,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s Executive Officer. “We are now pursuing a rule that will achieve significant emission reductions combined with enforceable requirements that will improve our air quality and better protect the affected communities.”

About a decade ago the Ports significantly reduced their emissions from ships, trucks, trains, cargo-handling equipment, and harbor craft at the Ports. These previous reductions came from measures included in the Ports’ Clean Air Action Plans from 2006, 2010 and 2017 as well as regulations from the California Air Resources Board. Those early actions led to needed emission reductions of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM, a toxic carcinogen), Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>, component of particulate matter), and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>, a key contributor to smog). However, slow implementation of lower polluting equipment and the inability to reach agreements on further emissions reductions, along with record-breaking congestion and cargo volume during the COVID-19 pandemic, has reversed the progress made over the past decade.

Pollution associated with goods movement affects public health throughout the region and disproportionately impacts neighboring communities. Many of the sources causing this pollution are

primarily regulated by the federal government, and additional actions at the national level are still urgently needed to provide healthy air for the South Coast Region.

To start the rulemaking process, South Coast AQMD will conduct working group meetings, community meetings and stakeholder outreach to seek input for potential rule concepts. Rule development is expected to take 12-18 months before it is presented to the Governing Board for their consideration.

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](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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