

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Notice of Public Workshop

**PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 1118 –
CONTROL OF EMISSIONS FROM REFINERY FLARES**

Thursday, February 8, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting - from PC or Laptop:
Webinar Meeting Link: <https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/96400022757>
Zoom Webinar ID: 964 0002 2757
Teleconference Dial In +1 669 900 6833

(Please note if the Zoom meeting link provided does not work, copy the link into web browser, or directly enter the meeting ID into the Zoom web or mobile application)

The Public Workshop will be conducted via video conferencing (Zoom) which can be accessed via personal computer or smart phone. Alternatively, stakeholders can phone-in to participate. We understand that this is not the same as an in-person public meeting; however, staff will take the time to listen to comments from all stakeholders. You are invited to attend the meeting electronically through Zoom. Instructions on how to participate can be found at the top of this notice.

Purpose of This Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled a Public Workshop to present and solicit information and suggestions from the public on Proposed Amended Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares (PAR 1118) which is scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on April 5, 2024 (subject to change).

Background

Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares (Rule 1118) was adopted by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on February 13, 1998, and established requirements for flares operated at petroleum refineries and related operations. The intent of Rule 1118 is to monitor and record data on refinery and related flaring operations, and to control and minimize flaring and flare-related emissions. The last major amendment to Rule 1118 was the 2017 amendment, which was the first phase of a planned two-phase amendment. The first phase primarily focused on establishing mechanisms to gather more information through scoping documents prepared by the owners and operators of regulated facilities. The current amendment is the second phase, which seeks further emission reductions from flares operated at petroleum refineries and related operations. Additionally, in 2017, Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) was signed into state law and required strategy development to reduce toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants in overburdened communities, including the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach communities. The Community Emission Reductions Program (CERP) for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach communities include air quality priorities to reduce emissions from refinery flaring.

Objective of Proposed Amended Rule

PAR 1118 is the second phase of the planned two-phase rule amendment and seeks to achieve further emission reductions from refinery flares and align Rule 1118 with requirements of US EPA's Refinery Sector Rule regarding flares. PAR 1118 relies upon the information gathered from the scoping documents submitted after the 2017 amendment and South Coast AQMD staff's investigations on flare emission reductions. PAR 1118 will achieve most of the AB 617 CERP air quality priorities for Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach communities by establishing a more stringent sulfur dioxide performance target, a new performance target for oxides of nitrogen emissions from clean service flares at hydrogen production plants, and a throughput threshold for liquified petroleum gas (LPG) clean service flares at refineries. PAR 1118 is estimated to achieve a 50 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide which will fulfill the sulfur dioxide emission goal of AB 617 Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach CERP. PAR 1118 also clarifies and updates rule language, restructures the rule, and removes obsolete language. PAR 1118 also includes separate and new requirements for clean service flares located at refineries and hydrogen production plants, updates requirements for notifications sent through Flare Event Notification

System (FENS), requires standardized flare event data reporting through FENS, and establishes new requirements for flare images to be posted on FENS or another public webpage.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and South Coast AQMD’s certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l) and South Coast AQMD Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, is currently reviewing the proposed project (PAR 1118) to determine if it will result in any potential adverse environmental impacts. Appropriate CEQA documentation will be prepared based on the analysis.

Available Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents will be available no later than January 19, 2024:

- Preliminary Draft Proposed Amended Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares
- Preliminary Draft Staff Report for Proposed Amended Rule 1118

To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents

Copies of Preliminary Draft PAR 1118 and Preliminary Draft Staff Report may be obtained from:

Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-3122
Email: PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov

The documents will also be available on the South Coast AQMD website at:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules/rule-1118>

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Public Workshop. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language-related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact Marissa Poon at (909) 396-2119 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to mpoon@aqmd.gov.

Submission of Comments or Documents

Comments, documents, studies, reports, or other relevant information may be submitted to the following contacts:

PAR 1118: Zoya Banan, PhD Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: zbanan@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-2332	CEQA: Jivar Afshar Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation, CEQA Section South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: jafshar@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-2040
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Written comments on PAR 1118 will be accepted until **February 22, 2024**.