



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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Mr. Mike Errante, Director of Public Works
City of Palm Desert
Palm Desert Civic Center
73-510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Proposed Portola Avenue Bridge Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

Please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration. The SCAQMD would be happy to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

SS:GM

RVC050309-01
Control Number

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- In Section III. Air Quality on page 15 of the Draft MND, the lead agency proposes mitigation measures MM 3-2 and MM 3-3 (the use of diesel particulate filters and aqueous diesel fuel) to reduce NO_x emissions from construction vehicles and equipment. In Appendix A (URBEMIS Air Quality Modeling), the lead agency has activated these measures as shown in the URBEMIS 2002 output sheets along with an additional measure, the use of cooled exhaust gas recirculation (EGR).

It is recommended that the lead agency investigate the availability of aqueous diesel fuel and off-road mobile sources equipped with EGR and diesel particulate filters. Currently, the availability of equipment filters with these technologies is relatively limited, so they may not be available for use by the project proponent to completely mitigate construction air quality impacts. It is recommended that the lead agency document the availability of construction equipment fitted with control technologies and the availability of low sulfur diesel or aqueous diesel projects or identify additional mitigations to ensure that construction air quality impacts are not significant.