



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE: UPDATED 1-HOUR OZONE STANDARD ATTAINMENT DEMONSTRATION FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN**


Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above. SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project 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.

The project provides an update to the attainment demonstration for the federal 1979 1-hour ozone standard that was included in the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The emissions inventory in the updated attainment demonstration is based on the final emissions inventory in the 2016 AQMP in order to be consistent with the attainment demonstrations of the 8-hour ozone and PM 2.5 standards. The updated attainment demonstration also includes revised air quality modeling and an updated attainment strategy for meeting the 1-hour ozone standard. The updated attainment strategy relies only on SCAQMD's proposed control measures in the 2016 AQMP, based on the expectation that progress in emission reductions targeted toward attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by 2023 will ensure attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard by 2022. As such, emission reductions from the California Air Resources Board's State Implementation Plan (SIP) strategies, including federal Clean Air Act Section 182(e)(5) measures ("black box" measures), are not needed to attain the 1-hour ozone standard. The updated attainment strategy successfully demonstrates attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard by 2022.

SCAQMD staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Furthermore, the proposed attainment demonstration updates are considered categorically exempt because they are considered actions to protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. If the project is approved, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Luke Eisenhardt (c/o Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Eisenhardt can also be reached at (909) 396-2324. Mr. Michael Krause is also available at (909) 396-2706 to answer any questions regarding the proposed project.

**Date:** October 9, 2018

**Signature:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Radlein  
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section  
Planning, Rules, and Area Sources

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

---

<b>To:</b> County Clerks Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino	<b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
--	---

---

**Project Title:** Updated 1-Hour Ozone Standard Attainment Demonstration For The South Coast Air Basin

---

**Project Location:** The location of the project is in SCAQMD's jurisdiction over the four-county South Coast Air Basin which includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

---

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** SCAQMD staff is proposing an update to the attainment demonstration for the federal 1979 1-hour ozone standard that was included in the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the South Coast Air Basin. The project would: 1) update the emissions inventory to be consistent with final emissions inventory used for the attainment demonstrations of the 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 standards in the 2016 AQMP; 2) revise the air quality modeling ; and 3) update the attainment strategy for meeting the 1-hour ozone standard by removing emission reductions from CARB's SIP strategies, including federal Clean Air Section 182(e)(5) measures ("black box" measures) since they are not needed to attain the 1-hour standard because the updated attainment demonstration relies only on SCAQMD's control measures in the 2016 AQMP, based on the expectation that progress in emission reductions targeted toward the attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by 2023 will ensure attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard by 2022. The updated attainment strategy successfully demonstrates attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard by 2022.

---

<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District	<b>Agency Carrying Out Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District
--	--

---

**Exempt Status:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule  
CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions By Regulatory Agencies For Protection Of The Environment (Class 8 Categorical Exemption)

---

**Reasons why project is exempt:** SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project 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 the update to the 1-hour ozone standard attainment demonstration is not proposing to add new or delete any control measures from the 2016 AQMP, but merely presents updated analyses and other changes that do not have the potential to cause a direct or indirect adverse impact on the environment, SCAQMD staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Furthermore, the proposed attainment demonstration updates are considered categorically exempt because they are considered actions to protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. If the project is approved, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

---

**Date When Project Will Be Considered for Approval (subject to change):**  
SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: November 2, 2018; SCAQMD Headquarters

---

<b>CEQA Contact Person:</b> Mr. Luke Eisenhardt	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-2324	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:leisenhardt@aqmd.gov">leisenhardt@aqmd.gov</a>	<b>Fax:</b> (909) 396-3982
--	--	---	-------------------------------

---

<b>Rule Contact Person:</b> Mr. Michael Krause	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-2706	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mkrause@aqmd.gov">mkrause@aqmd.gov</a>	<b>Fax:</b> (909) 396-3324
---	--	---	-------------------------------

---

**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Signed Upon Board Approval)*  
Barbara Radlein  
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources