

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

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| <b>To:</b> County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino; and Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation – State Clearinghouse | <b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)<br>21865 Copley Drive<br>Diamond Bar, CA 91765 |
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**Project Title:** Cost Recovery Provisions in the Proposed Cooperative Agreement Between the South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles

**Project Location:** The entities subject to the cost recovery provisions in the Proposed Cooperative Agreement are the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles which are both located within Los Angeles County within the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement between South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles establish the payments which are to be paid by the Ports in order for South Coast AQMD to recover its reasonable costs associated with review and verification of revised draft Port Zero-Emissions Infrastructure Plans (Plans), draft modified Plans, time extension requests, and annual reports. The cost recovery provisions, which apply to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, specify: 1) hourly rates to recover expenses for the cost of reviewing and verifying each revised draft Plan, draft modified Plan, time extension request, and report; and 2) payment cap of \$100,000 per review. The cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement enable South Coast AQMD to meet operating expenses while executing the requirements and terms of the proposed Cooperative Agreement.

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| <b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b><br>South Coast Air Quality Management District | <b>Agency Carrying Out Project:</b><br>South Coast Air Quality Management District |
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**Exempt Status:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

**Reasons why project is exempt:** South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, 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 cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement between South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because they involve charges established by the South Coast AQMD, a public agency, for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements associated with executing the requirements and terms of the proposed Cooperative the Agreement.

**Date of Project Approval:** South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: November 7, 2025

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| <b>Cooperative Agreement Contact Person:</b><br>Charlene Nguyen | <b>Phone Number:</b><br>(909) 396-2648 | <b>Email:</b><br><a href="mailto:cnguyen@aqmd.gov">cnguyen@aqmd.gov</a> |

**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



November 7, 2025

Kevin Ni  
Program Supervisor, CEQA  
Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation