

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

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**To:** 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

**From:** South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

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**Project Title:** South Coast Air Basin Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

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**Project Location:** The proposed project is located within the four-county South Coast Air Basin portion of South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, which includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) established a strategy for meeting the 2015 8-hour ozone standard, for which the South Coast Air Basin is classified as "extreme" nonattainment. The 2022 AQMP did not formally address the contingency measure requirements set forth in federal Clean Air Act (CAA) Sections 172(c)(9) and 182(c)(9) due to the absence of United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) guidance at the time of its adoption. In response to U.S. EPA's contingency measures guidance that was finalized in December 2024, the South Coast Air Basin Contingency Measure SIP Revision for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS (South Coast Ozone Contingency SIP Revision) has been developed which includes: 1) contingency measures for stationary point and area sources; 2) a mobile source contingency measure; 3) a comparison of emission reductions to be achieved by contingency measures to the recommended amount of reductions specified in U.S. EPA's guidance; and 4) a demonstration that there are no other feasible stationary and mobile source contingency measures beyond the aforementioned contingency measures for stationary point and area sources, and mobile sources. All four contingency measures included in the South Coast Ozone Contingency SIP Revision have been previously adopted by the South Coast AQMD and California Air Resources Board. Therefore, the South Coast Ozone Contingency SIP Revision is an administrative exercise to fulfill U.S. EPA requirements and will benefit stakeholders by having improved clarity when implementing the applicable requirements.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:**  
South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:**  
South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**Exempt Status:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

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**Reasons why project is exempt:** South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (South Coast Ozone Contingency SIP Revision) 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. No adverse environmental impacts are expected because the South Coast Ozone Contingency SIP Revision is comprised of an administrative update to meet federal CAA requirements without proposing new requirements that would result in additional physical modifications. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may cause a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. The proposed project is also categorically exempt because it is intended to further protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions apply to the proposed project.

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**Date of Project Approval:** South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: August 1, 2025

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

<b>CEQA Contact Person:</b> Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D.	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-3022	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:fkhalaj@aqmd.gov">fkhalaj@aqmd.gov</a>
<b>Proposed Project Contact Person:</b> Eric Praske, Ph.D.	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-2948	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:epraske@aqmd.gov">epraske@aqmd.gov</a>

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

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



*August 1, 2025*

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