

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

**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:** Proposed Amended Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees

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**Project Location:** The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) 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.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Proposed Amended Rule 301 (PAR 301) updates the refinery-related community air monitoring systems annual operating and maintenance fees applicable to major refineries and related facilities originally subject to Rule 1180 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Petroleum Refineries and Related Facilities, and establishes new annual operating and maintenance fees for facilities newly subject to either Rule 1180 or Rule 1180.1 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Other Refineries. PAR 301 also includes administrative changes for clarity and consistency. While no emission reductions are expected, PAR 301 will ensure that South Coast AQMD has the essential resources to provide necessary cost recovery while implementing the requirements of Rule 1180 and Rule 1180.1.

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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 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

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**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 proposed amendments to Rule 301 are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because the proposed new and amended annual operating and maintenance fees for refinery-related community air monitoring systems for facilities subject to Rule 1180 and Rule 1180.1 are necessary for the South Coast AQMD to meet operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements. In addition, the other proposed amendments included in PAR 301, which have no fee impact and are strictly administrative in nature, are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

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**Date of Project Approval:** South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: October 3, 2025

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

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



October 3, 2025

Kevin Ni  
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Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation