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

Project Title: Proposed Amendments to the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) Guidelines

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.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Amendments to the BACT Guidelines are proposed to the following sections to maintain consistency with recent changes to South Coast AQMD rules and state requirements and to include equipment and processes which have been achieved in practice.

Overview Section

The introduction has been updated to provide a more complete reference to the applicable regulatory requirements, and to update the agency responsible for managing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Technology Clearinghouse Database from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's Engineering Managers Committee to the CARB Technology Assessment Section. This section has also been reorganized and includes other administrative changes to improve clarity and consistency.

Part A – Policy and Procedures for Major Polluting Facilities

The references in Footnote 3 to Rule 1325 paragraphs (b)(12) and (b)(13) have been updated for consistency with the most recent version of the rule. Other administrative changes have been made for clarity and consistency.

Part B – Lowest Achievable Emission Rate (LAER) /BACT Determinations for Major Polluting Facilities

Section I – South Coast AQMD LAER/BACT Determinations has been revised to update one existing listing and add one new listing, as follows: a) Linear Generator, Non-Emergency Electrical Generator, Natural Gas Fired (update), and b) Lithographic Printing, Non-Heatset, Sheet-fed (new). Section III – Other LAER/BACT Determinations has been revised to add two new listings of other/emerging technologies that have been permitted and placed into operation but have not yet demonstrated sufficient performance to qualify as LAER, as follows: a) Boiler, Refinery Gas Fired, and b) Digester Gas (Biogas) Conditioning and Upgrading System.

Part C – Policy and Procedures for Non-Major Polluting Facilities

The Maximum Cost-Effectiveness Values in Table 5 have been updated for consistency with the second-quarter 2026 Marshall and Swift Equipment Cost Index in accordance with the BACT Guidelines policy. Figure 2 - The Ongoing BACT Update Process has been updated to include the Stationary Source Committee within the flow chart for consistency with the BACT Scientific Review Committee SRC Charter. Other updates to terminology have been made for consistency.

Part D – BACT Determinations for Non-Major Polluting Facilities
Emission limits for the Food Oven category have been updated for consistency with the current Phase I limits in Rule 1153.1, and a new listing of Linear Generator, Non-Emergency Electrical Generator, Natural Gas Fired has been added.

Part E – Policy and Procedures for Facilities Subject to Prevention of Significant Deterioration for Greenhouse Gases
Administrative amendments have been made to correct minor grammatical errors.

The proposed project will benefit stakeholders by having the guidelines reflect the latest, feasible technology available and improved clarity and accuracy when implementing the applicable requirements.

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

Exempt Status:
CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption
CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (amendments to the BACT Guidelines) 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. Since the proposed project is comprised of new information and updates that reflect current practices of LAER/BACT determinations in the BACT Guidelines and the most current achieved-in-practice equipment and/or processes, and makes administrative amendments without requiring physical modifications, 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 proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. The proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, because the proposed amendments to the BACT Guidelines are designed to further protect or enhance the environment. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions, apply to the proposed project.

Date of Project Approval:
South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: November 6, 2026

CEQA Contact Person:	**Phone Number:**	**Email:**
Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D.	(909) 396-3022	fkhalaj@aqmd.gov
BACT Contact Person:	**Phone Number:**	**Email:**
Bahareh Farahani	(909) 396-2353	bfarahani@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** Kevin Ni *November 6, 2026*
Kevin Ni
Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation