

**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 461 – Gasoline Storage and Dispensing

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: Rule 461 was adopted to control emissions of volatile organic compounds and toxic air contaminants from gasoline dispensing facilities. Rule 461 currently has an alternative compliance option which allows operators of non-retail gasoline dispensing facilities (GDFs) to dispense gasoline into motor vehicles without requiring the use of California Air Resources Board-certified Phase II Enhanced Vapor Recovery systems, provided that the motor vehicles are equipped with Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery (ORVR) systems and are owned or directly controlled by the facility operator. Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 461 will streamline recordkeeping requirements for operators of non-retail GDFs whose fleets consist exclusively of ORVR-equipped motor vehicles by adding an option to allow documentation of total daily fuel dispensing quantities in aggregate, in lieu of the current requirement to record the amount of fuel dispensed on a per vehicle basis. PAR 461 will also include an editorial correction and remove an outdated provision which has been superseded by state reporting requirements. While no emission reductions are expected, increasing the options available in PAR 461 for fleet operators to demonstrate compliance with the recordkeeping provisions will benefit stakeholders by providing flexibility and improved clarity for implementing the applicable requirements while reducing the administrative workload.

Public Agency Approving Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Agency Carrying Out Project:
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 461) 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 proposed project provides a new recordkeeping option and contains other clarifications and administrative changes without requiring physical modifications, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that implementation of PAR 461 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.

Date of Project Approval:

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: September 4, 2026

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

CEQA Contact Person: Sina Taghvaei, Ph.D.	Phone Number: (909) 396-2192	Email: staghvaei@aqmd.gov
PAR 461 Contact Person: Jennifer Wang	Phone Number: (909) 396-3098	Email: jwang@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



September 4, 2026

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