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 Amended Rule 1106 – Marine and Pleasure Craft Coatings

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 1106 limits Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions from marine and pleasure craft coatings formulated for use in the marine environment. The primary objective of Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1106 is to partially implement Control Measure CTS-01: Further Emission Reductions From Coatings, Solvents, Adhesives, and Lubricants, of the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan and to phase out the use of para-Chlorobenzotrifluoride (pCBtF) and tert-Butyl Acetate (t-BAc) in marine coatings, pleasure craft coatings, and marine structure coatings due to toxicity concerns. PAR 1106 proposes to: 1) prohibit the sale and use of coatings which contain pCBtF and/or t-BAc above trace levels within the South Coast AQMD with future effective prohibition dates that vary by coating category; 2) prohibit the sale and use of cyclic, branched, or linear, completely methylated siloxane above trace levels within the South Coast AQMD; 3) prohibit the possession of non-compliant marine coatings, pleasure craft coatings, and marine structure coatings upon rule adoption; 4) include alternative Product Weighted-Maximum Incremental Reactivity (PW-MIR) VOC content limits for pre-treatment wash primers and wood coatings; 5) include recordkeeping and labeling requirements; and 6) update rule structure, add new definitions, remove outdated rule provisions, and make other edits for consistency and clarity. Implementation of PAR 1106 is anticipated to benefit public health and ambient air quality by reducing VOC emissions by 23.9 pounds per day and reducing the risk of exposure to pCBtF and t-BAc among workers, nearby receptors, and the public through the phaseout of these toxic chemicals.

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

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1106) 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. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project (PAR 1106) may have a significant adverse effect on the environment because: 1) PAR 1106 will benefit public health and ambient air quality by reducing VOC emissions and the risk of exposure to toxic compounds pCBtF and t-BAc without increasing ozone formation and without the need for physical modifications to existing equipment; 2) compliant formulations of some coating categories that do not contain pCBtF and/or t-BAc are commercially available; 3) additional time is provided for manufacturers to reformulate coatings, if needed; and 4) the sell-through and use-through provisions will prevent stranded assets and the generation of waste by ensuring that manufacturers, distributors, and end users have sufficient time to find suitable replacements. 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: November 6, 2026		
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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:**  *November 6, 2026*

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