

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Notice of Public Workshop

**PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 1118 – CONTROL OF EMISSIONS FROM
REFINERY FLARES**

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting - from PC or Laptop:

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/98778402410>

Zoom Webinar ID: 987 7840 2410

Teleconference Dial In +1 669 900 6833

(Please note if the Zoom meeting link provided does not work, copy the link into web browser, or directly enter the meeting ID into the Zoom web or mobile application)

The Public Workshop will be conducted via video conferencing (Zoom) which can be accessed via personal computer or smart phone. Alternatively, stakeholders can phone-in to participate. We understand that this is not the same as an in-person public meeting; however, staff will take the time to listen to comments from all stakeholders. You are invited to attend the meeting electronically through Zoom. Instructions on how to participate can be found at the top of this notice.

Purpose of This Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled a Public Workshop to present and solicit information and suggestions from the public on Proposed Amended Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares (PAR 1118) which is scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on January 9, 2026 (subject to change).

Background

Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares (Rule 1118), originally adopted by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board in 1998, established requirements to monitor, control, and minimize emissions from refinery and related flaring operations and to reduce emissions from flaring events operated at refineries and related facilities. Flare monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting of flaring events are provided through the Flare Notification Event System (FENS), and the public inquiry hotline. Since its adoption, Rule 1118 has undergone four amendments in 2005, 2017, 2023, and most recently in 2024. The 2024 amendment introduced several key changes including lowering the annual sulfur dioxide performance target, a new annual nitrogen oxide performance threshold for clean service flares, a new operational requirement for liquified petroleum gas clean service flares, adjusted mitigation fees in accordance with the most recent Consumer Price Index, and updated reporting requirements.

Objective of Proposed Amended Rule

The objective of PAR 1118 is to correct an omission from subdivision (l), Flare Event Notification Requirements by updating paragraph (l)(7) to include paragraph (l)(5). Prior to the 2024 amendment, paragraph (l)(7) had allowed facilities to submit notifications via 1-800-CUT-SMOG when FENS was unavailable; however, the notification requirement for the exceedance of 100,000 standard cubic feet of vent gas from a flare was inadvertently omitted from paragraph (l)(7). The proposed amendment aligns with the original intent for paragraph (l)(7) which applies to all notifications described in paragraphs (l)(2) through (l)(5). In addition, amendments are proposed that would replace the standard compliance date placeholder language “[18 Months After Rule Adoption]” in paragraph (j)(10) with the actual compliance date of “October 5, 2025,” which is the date that corresponds to 18 months after April 5, 2024, which was the date of rule adoption.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and South Coast AQMD's certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l) and South Coast AQMD Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, is currently reviewing the proposed project (PAR 1118) to determine if it will result in any potential adverse environmental impacts. Appropriate CEQA documentation will be prepared based on the analysis.

Available Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents will be available no later than September 23, 2025:

- Preliminary Draft PAR 1118
- Preliminary Draft Staff Report for PAR 1118

To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents

Copies of the Preliminary Draft PAR 1118 and Preliminary Draft Staff Report may be obtained from:

Lisa Tanaka, Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-3327
Email: PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov

The documents will also be available on the South Coast AQMD website at:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules/rule-1118>

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Public Workshop. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language-related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact Marissa Poon at (909) 396-2119 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to mpoon@aqmd.gov.

Submission of Comments or Documents

Comments, documents, studies, reports, or other relevant information may be submitted to the following contacts:

<p>PAR 1118: Sergio Torres Callejas Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: scallegas@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-2231</p>	<p>CEQA: Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D. Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation, CEQA Section South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: fkhalaj@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-3022</p>
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Written comments on PAR 1118 will be accepted until October 21, 2025.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 7920.000) your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g. your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public on request or posted on the South Coast AQMD website.