

South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Notice of Public Workshop

**Proposed Rule 444.1 – Particulate Matter Emission Reductions from Forestry and  
Agricultural Waste**  
**Proposed Amended Rule 401 – Visible Emissions**  
**Proposed Amended Rule 404 – Particulate Matter - Concentration**  
**Proposed Amended Rule 405 – Solid Particulate Matter - Weight**  
**Proposed Amended Rule 219 – Equipment Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to  
Regulation II**  
**Proposed Amended Rule 222 – Filing Requirements for Specific Emission Sources Not  
Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
10 am

Join Zoom Webinar Meeting – from PC or Laptop

<https://aqmd.zoomgov.com/j/1613343231>

Zoom Webinar ID: 161 334 3231(applies to all)

Teleconference Dial-In: +1 669 254 5252

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

The Public Workshop will be conducted via video conferencing (Zoom) which can be accessed via your computer or smart phone. Alternatively, stakeholders can phone-in to participate. 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 Rule 444.1 – Particulate Matter Emission Reductions from Forestry and Agricultural Waste (PR 444.1), Proposed Amended Rule 401 – Visible Emissions (PAR 401), Proposed Amended Rule 404 – Particulate Matter - Concentration (PAR 404), Proposed Amended Rule 405 – Solid Particulate Matter - Weight (PAR 405), Proposed Amended Rule 219 – Equipment Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II (PAR 219), and Proposed Amended Rule 222 – Filing Requirements for Specific Emission Sources Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II (PAR 222), which are scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on June 5, 2026 (subject to change).

### **Background**

Implementing fuel reduction strategies is crucial for effective wildfire prevention and particulate matter (PM) reduction. Currently, the majority of forestry and agricultural waste is disposed of through open burning or left in place as a source of fuel for wildfires, both of which are highly emissive and generate elevated levels of PM. Providing a pathway and streamlining the use of alternative vegetative fuel reduction technologies, such as air curtain incinerators (ACIs) and prescribed fire vehicles, will help reduce PM emissions from forestry and agricultural waste management operations.

### **Objective of Proposed and Amended Rules**

The proposed and amended rules will partially implement Best Control Measure 20: Application of All Feasible Measures (BCM-20) from the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard (PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan) and implement objectives in the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP). PR 444.1 will establish requirements for ACIs and prescribed fire vehicles used to reduce vegetative waste and reduce PM emissions from forestry and agricultural waste management practices. PAR 401, PAR 404, and PAR 405 will include an exemption for ACIs and prescribed fire vehicles to allow their use. PAR 219 will exempt some ACIs and prescribed fire vehicles from South Coast AQMD permit requirements. PAR 222 will require ACIs and prescribed fire vehicles exempt from permit requirements in PAR 219 to be registered with the South Coast AQMD.

### **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 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l); codified in South Coast AQMD Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, is currently reviewing the proposed project (PR 444.1 plus PAR 219, PAR 222, PAR 401, PAR 404, and PAR 405) 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 March 20, 2026:

- Preliminary Draft PR 444.1;
- Preliminary Draft PAR 401;
- Preliminary Draft PAR 404;
- Preliminary Draft PAR 405;
- Preliminary Draft PAR 219;
- Preliminary Draft PAR 222; and
- Preliminary Draft Staff Report for PR 444.1, PAR 401, PAR 404, PAR 405, PAR 219, and PAR 222

### **To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents**

Copies of Preliminary Draft PR 444.1, PAR 401, PAR 404, PAR 405, PAR 219, and PAR 222 and Preliminary Draft Staff Report may be obtained from:

Lisa Tanaka/Public Advisor  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
Phone: (909) 396-2432  
Email: [publicadvisor@aqmd.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@aqmd.gov)

The documents will also be available for download from the South Coast AQMD website at: <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules/rule-404-and-444-1>

### **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 (Gov. 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 Michael Morris at (909) 396-3282 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to [mmorris@aqmd.gov](mailto:mmorris@aqmd.gov).

**Key Contacts for Submitting Questions and Comments**

Attendees are invited to ask questions and make comments during the Public Workshop. Questions, comments, documents, studies, reports, or other relevant information may also be directed to the following contacts:

<p>PR 444.1 and PARs 401, 404, 405, 219, 222:  Niyati Rami  Planning, Rule Development, and  Implementation  South Coast Air Quality Management District  21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765  Email: <a href="mailto:nrami@aqmd.gov">nrami@aqmd.gov</a>  Phone: (909) 396-2249</p>	<p>CEQA:  Sina Taghvaei, Ph.D.  Planning, Rule Development, and  Implementation, CEQA Section  South Coast Air Quality Management District  21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765  Email: <a href="mailto:staghvaei@aqmd.gov">staghvaei@aqmd.gov</a>  Phone: (909) 396-2192</p>
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Staff requests written comments on PR 444.1, PAR 401, PAR 404, PAR 405, PAR 219, and PAR 222 be submitted no later than **April 8, 2026**.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code Section 7920.000 et seq.) 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.