

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Notice of Public Workshop

Proposed Amended Rule 401 – Visible Emissions

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Webinar Meeting – from PC or Laptop
<https://aqmd.zoomgov.com/j/1656730033>
Zoom Webinar ID: 165 673 0033 (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 personal 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 Amended Rule 401 – Visible Emissions (PAR 401), which is scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on January 8, 2027 (subject to change).

Background

Rule 401 regulates visible emissions from any source. Smoke tests are considered a best-practice diagnostic test where visible smoke is generated to test equipment for leaks and demonstrate capture efficiency of an emission control device. Conducting a smoke test may result in brief visible emissions that do not meet the requirements set forth in Rule 401.

Objective of Proposed Amended Rule

PAR 401 will establish specific requirements for smoke tests conducted at petroleum refineries and facilities with operations related to petroleum refineries. The proposed amendments also exempt smoke tests required by South Coast AQMD from visible emissions requirements.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Pursuant to the CEQA and South Coast AQMD's certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, CEQA Guidelines Section 1521(1) and South Coast AQMD Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, is currently reviewing PAR 401 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 October 23, 2026:

- Preliminary Draft PAR 401; and
- Preliminary Draft Board Letter for PAR 401 (serves as Staff Report)

To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents

Copies of the Preliminary Draft PAR 401 and the Preliminary Draft Board Letter 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

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-401>

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.

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:

PAR 401: Niyati Rami South Coast AQMD 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: nrami@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-2249	CEQA: Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D. South Coast AQMD 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 Email: fkhalaj@aqmd.gov Phone: (909) 396-3022
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Staff requests written comments on PAR 401 be submitted no later than **November 11, 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 and cannot be kept confidential.