

**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 Planning and Research - State Clearinghouse
From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1111 – Reduction of NOx Emissions from Natural-Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces

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: Amendments to Rule 1111 are proposed that would: 1) extend the mitigation fee alternative compliance option end date from September 30, 2021 to September 30, 2023 for mobile home furnaces; 2) extend the exemption for condensing and non-condensing furnaces certified at 40 nanograms per Joule (ng/J) for installations in high-altitude areas (e.g., elevations greater than or equal to 4,200 feet) from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022; 3) permanently exempt downflow and large-sized (e.g., rated at or greater than 100,000 British thermal units per hour) condensing and non-condensing furnaces that replace existing furnaces in high-altitude areas; and 4) add requirements for recordkeeping and labeling. A delay in achieving approximately 0.016 ton per day (equivalent to 32 pounds per day) of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission reductions will be expected to occur as a result of the delayed compliance date for mobile home furnaces. A negligible amount of NOx emission reductions forgone (e.g., less than one pound per day) will be expected to occur as a result of the proposed exemptions for furnaces installed in high-altitude areas.

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 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. Since the quantity of delayed NOx emission reductions are expected to be temporary and less than the South Coast AQMD air quality significance threshold for NOx, and the amount of permanent NOx emission reductions forgone are negligible, it can be seen with certainty there that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the 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 Hearing: October 1, 2021

CEQA Contact Person: Kendra Reif	Phone Number: (909) 396-3479	Email: kreif@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3982
--	--	---	-------------------------------

Rule Contact Person: Yanrong Zhu	Phone Number: (909) 396-3289	Email: yzhu@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3982
--	--	---	-------------------------------

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



Barbara Radlein
Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources