

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

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**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

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**Project Title:** Proposed Amended Rule 1115 – Motor Vehicle Assembly Line Coating Operations

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**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.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Amendments to Rule 1115 are proposed that will update the volatile organic compound (VOC) emission limits for coatings used in automotive assembly line processes and for other miscellaneous materials used at motor vehicle assembly coating operations to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Reasonably Available Control Technology requirements and their recommended 2008 Control Techniques Guidelines for Automobile and Light-Duty Truck Assembly Coatings. Other amendments are proposed that will: 1) separate the previously combined purpose and applicability subdivision into two parts; 2) revise the applicability requirements to include automotive parts that are coated during the vehicle assembly process as well as during associated solvent cleaning operations and exclude activities that would be subject to Rule 1151 - Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Non-Assembly Line Coating Operations; 3) add new and modify existing definitions of terms; 4) update recordkeeping requirements; 5) revise the methods of analysis to include an additional test method for determining VOC and solids content of coatings and to update the criteria for determining transfer efficiency; and 6) delete the exemptions for trunk coatings, interior coatings, sealers and deadeners, and accent and stripe coatings.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:** South Coast Air Quality Management District  
**Agency Carrying Out Project:** South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**Exempt Status:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

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**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. Operators of all nine facilities subject to Rule 1115 are currently using coatings that comply with the proposed VOC emission limits and are applying these coatings using equivalent high-volume, low-pressure or other more transfer-efficient application method such that no physical modifications are expected to occur as a result of the proposed project. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption.

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**Date of Project Approval:** South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: March 4, 2022

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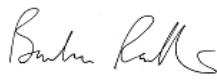
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**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Barbara Radlein  
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Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources