

**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 2202 – On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options

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: Existing Rule 2202 requires large employers to choose from a menu of options to reduce emissions from employee commutes. The adopted 2202 Air Quality Management Plan includes Mobile Source Control Measure MOB-14: Rule 2202 – On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options which seeks to identify additional potential emission reductions. Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 2202 includes a first phase of rule development that would impose new data collection and reporting requirements on all covered worksites, update implementation guidelines, and make other minor administrative changes. Data collected from this proposed amendment would inform a potential future phase of rulemaking (that would undergo its own public process and CEQA analysis). PAR 2202 applies to all employers located within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction with 250 or more employees, which is approximately 1,186 worksites with over 600,000 employees arriving to the worksite within the peak window of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Specifically, PAR 2202 includes the following proposed changes: 1) incorporates additional data collection requirements for all regulated worksites, including information on telecommuting activity, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and business type/classification for the worksite; 2) revises the Rule 2202 Implementation Guidelines and Employee Commute Reduction Program Guidelines; 3) adds provisions to permanently allow the use of Human Resources and/or payroll records to account for telecommute trips to streamline reporting; 4) updates rideshare strategies; 5) incorporates new and amended definitions; and 6) makes minor administrative changes for clarity and consistency. PAR 2202 is not expected to achieve additional emission reductions from worksites subject to the rule.

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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 2202) 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. Because PAR 2202 contains additional data collection requirements to analyze employee commute activity to inform future rule amendments, minor revisions and clarifications and will not require physical modifications, 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. Further, the proposed amendments contain action items involving the collection or exchange of information or data obtained from stakeholders, which are categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection. Finally, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: August 4, 2023

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature:



August 4, 2023

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