

**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 2011 – Requirements for Monitoring, Reporting, and Recordkeeping for Oxides of Sulfur (SOx) Emissions, and Proposed Amended Rule 2012 – Requirements for Monitoring, Reporting, and Recordkeeping for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) Emissions

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: Rule 2011 and Rule 2012 contain specifications for the installation and operation of continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) to ensure accuracy and precision of monitoring mass emissions for oxides of sulfur (SOx) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) at Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) facilities. To provide consistency between South Coast AQMD CEMS rules, reduce potential compliance issues by providing monitoring relief for RECLAIM facilities as they replace and/or modify equipment to comply with landing rules, and to improve clarity, Proposed Amended Rule 2011 (PAR 2011) and Proposed Amended Rule 2012 (PAR 2012) include the following new provisions that will: 1) allow the owner or operator to shutdown the SOx and/or NOx CEMS when the emission source for which the CEMS is monitoring is not scheduled to be operating and is not generating emissions for an extended period of time, provided specific conditions are met; and 2) expand the alternative performance test options to allow a three-point linearity error test to measure concentrations for SOx and NOx. Implementation of PAR 2011 and PAR 2012 will neither delay the transition of NOx RECLAIM to a command-and-control regulatory structure, nor result in a change in emissions. The proposed project will benefit RECLAIM facilities when conducting monitoring activities without undermining the overall goal of CEMS which is to collect accurate data for the purpose of determining compliance with RECLAIM requirements.

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 (PAR 2011 and PAR 2012) 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. The proposed project provides updates to technical guidelines for operating CEMS as required by South Coast AQMD rules or permit conditions without requiring physical modifications to occur. 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.

Date of Project Approval:
South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: November 3, 2023

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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:**  November 3, 2023
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Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation