



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

June 5, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
Attn: Scott Morgan
1400 Tenth Street, Suite 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502

Re: Electronic Filing and Posting of Notice of Exemption for Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board at its June 5, 2020 Hearing determined that Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the project. The attached Notice of Exemption was prepared for the project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. In lieu of filing the Notice of Exemption with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located (e.g., Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062(c)(2), I am electronically filing the Notice of Exemption with your office for posting on the CEQAnet Web Portal at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/search/recent> in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-54-20 issued on April 22, 2020 for the State of Emergency in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19.

In addition, this Notice of Exemption has been electronically posted on the South Coast AQMD's webpage which can be accessed via the following weblink: <http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/public-notices/ceqa-notices/notices-of-exemption/noe---year-2020>. Finally, this Notice of Exemption has been distributed electronically via email to interested parties.

If you have any questions regarding this electronic filing and request for posting, please call me at (909) 396-2716. Thank you for your kind attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Radlein".

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

Attachment

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

To: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth St, Suite 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502

From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices

Project Location: The project location is the portion within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (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).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: To satisfy United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) contingency measure requirements in accordance with the emission reduction strategy in the South Coast AQMD's 2016 Air Quality Management Plan Control Measure BCM-09 – Further Emission Reductions From Wood-Burning Fireplaces and Wood Stoves, amendments to Rule 445 are proposed that would: 1) automatically and incrementally lower the threshold limit for declaring a wood-burning curtailment (No-Burn day) for the entire South Coast Air Basin (Basin) for each subsequent final determination by the U.S. EPA of a failure to meet an applicable Clean Air Act milestone; and 2) reduce ambient emissions of particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) by expanding the criteria for Basin-wide No-Burn days. Other minor proposed amendments include additional definitions of terms used in the rule, and revisions to improve rule implementation and clarify existing 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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed Proposed Amended Rule 445 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 Proposed Amended Rule 445 is comprised of administrative amendments that codify existing South Coast AQMD practice and would not cause any physical changes that would adversely affect any environmental topic area, it can be seen with certainty 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. In addition, the proposed project is considered an action to protect or enhance the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption apply to the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions.

Date of Project Approval:

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: June 5, 2020; South Coast AQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person:

Mr. Ryan Bañuelos

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Rule Contact Person:

Mr. Henry Pourzand

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



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