

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

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<b>To:</b> Governor's Office of Planning and Research - State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth St, Suite 222 Sacramento, CA 95814-5502	<b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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**Project Title:** Proposed Amended Rule 1178 – Further Reductions of VOC Emissions from Storage Tanks at Petroleum Facilities

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**Project Location:** The project is located in 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), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) and the non Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB).

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** South Coast AQMD is proposing amendments to Rule 1178 which would: 1) allow an operator to accept a permit condition to limit the true vapor pressure of organic liquid contained in wastewater stored in an external floating roof tank to three pounds per square inch absolute (psia), in lieu of doming the tank, to prevent creating a safety hazard due to the accumulation of pyrophoric material that could otherwise occur if the tank were domed; and 2) allow the Executive Officer to retain the ability to review and confirm an operator's claim of a safety hazard due to the accumulation of pyrophoric material. Proposed Amended Rule 1178 is estimated to result in approximately 2.4 pounds per day of foregone VOC emission reductions, which is less than the South Coast AQMD air quality significance threshold of 55 pounds per day (mass daily threshold for operation).

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<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District	<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b> 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:** Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed Proposed Amended Rule 1178 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 proposed project would result in minimal foregone VOC emission reductions, 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 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 Hearing: November 6, 2020

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

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



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Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources