

**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
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Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1147 – NOx Reductions from Miscellaneous Sources

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: As part of transitioning facilities from the Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program subject to South Coast AQMD Regulation XX to a command-and-control regulatory program subject to source specific standards pursuant to South Coast AQMD Regulation XI, amendments to Rule 1147 are proposed that would: 1) expand the applicability to include non-RECLAIM, RECLAIM, and former RECLAIM facilities that operate gaseous fuel-fired combustion equipment with a rated heat input of greater than or equal to 325,000 British thermal units per hour; 2) establish a nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission limit of nine parts per million by volume (ppmv) for microturbines and 20 to 60 ppmv for all remaining equipment categories, and a carbon monoxide (CO) emission limit of 1,000 ppmv for applicable equipment, depending on the application and process temperature as well as implementation timeframes; 3) establish interim limits for equipment located at former RECLAIM facilities to prevent backsliding for any RECLAIM facility exiting the RECLAIM program prior to the effective dates of the proposed NOx and CO emission limits; 4) add new and modify existing definitions of terms; and 5) update requirements for monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping. Equipment achieving the current Rule 1147 concentration limits will be required to meet the proposed concentration limits by July 1, 2023 or when the burner reaches 32 years of age, whichever is later. In order to achieve the proposed concentration limits according to the compliance schedule up to 200 burners could be replaced with Ultra Low NOx Burners (ULNBs) or Low NOx Burners (LNBs) between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024 while the remainder of the affected units would be replaced between years 2025 and 2059, at the end of their useful life. Upon full implementation, approximately 1.59 tons per day of NOx emission reductions are expected.

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


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. Since the only physical modifications that may occur as a result of the proposed project are associated with retrofitting units with ULNBs or replacing equipment at the end of its useful life, which may be achieved without involving construction or via minimal construction activities, depending on the affected facility, 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: May 6, 2022

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____


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