

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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
(South Coast AQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15094

Project Title: Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan

State Clearinghouse No: 2022050287

Lead Agency: South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Lead Agency Contact: Kevin Ni,
(909) 396-2462

Project Location: The project is located in the South Coast AQMD's 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.

Project Description: The 2022 AQMP is the planning document that sets forth policies and measures to achieve federal and state ambient air quality standards in the region. In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency strengthening the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level 8-hour ozone in 2015, by lowering the primary and secondary 8-hour ozone standard to 70 parts per billion, the 2022 AQMP identifies control measures and strategies which have been developed to bring the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley into attainment with this standard by 2037. The 2022 AQMP control measures and strategies were developed to achieve this NAAQS by focusing on reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are precursors to the formation of ozone, and other air pollutants. The 2022 AQMP is comprised of the following control measures which address stationary point and area and mobile sources: 1) the South Coast AQMD's Stationary and Mobile Source Control Measures; 2) control measures identified in the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan by the California Air Resources Board; and 3) approved Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and Transportation Control Measures provided by the Southern California Association of Governments. The 2022 AQMP also includes emission inventories, the most current air quality data, updated growth projections, new modeling techniques, demonstrations of compliance with state and federal Clean Air Act requirements, and an adoption and implementation schedule for the control strategies. The 2022 AQMP is designed to protect and improve public health for those living, working, and visiting the region

within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. The 2022 AQMP is estimated to reduce NOx emissions by approximately 124 tons per day beyond implementation of existing regulations. The Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP identified the following environmental topic areas would have significant and unavoidable adverse impacts: 1) air quality during construction; 2) energy due to increased electricity, natural gas, and hydrogen demand; 3) hazards and hazardous materials due to accidental release of ammonia, natural gas via pipeline, and liquified natural gas via on-road trucks; 4) hydrology (water demand and water supply) and water quality; 5) construction noise and vibration at roadways; and 6) solid and hazardous waste from construction and early retirement of equipment.

This is to advise that the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has certified the Final Program EIR, approved the above-described project, and has made the following determinations:

1. The 2022 AQMP, being subject to consideration by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, is a discretionary action, which has the potential for resulting in direct or indirect change to the environment and, therefore, is considered a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). [CEQA Guidelines Section 15378].
2. Public Resources Code Section 21061.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15364 requires the potential environmental impacts of projects be evaluated and that feasible mitigation methods and project alternatives to reduce or avoid identified significant adverse environmental impact from these projects be identified.
3. The South Coast AQMD, as lead agency, has evaluated the potential environmental effects of the project pursuant to CEQA.
4. A Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the 2022 AQMP is considered to be the appropriate document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(a)(3), because the 2022 AQMP constitutes a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project in connection with the issuance of a plan. To fulfill the purpose and intent of CEQA, a Program EIR has been prepared to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the 2022 AQMP.
5. Because the Final Program EIR concluded that the project will have significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on the environment, the Final Program EIR included mitigation measures and an alternatives analysis as required by CEQA Guidelines 15126. Feasible mitigation measures were identified for the following environmental topic areas: 1) air quality during construction; 2) energy due to increased electricity, natural gas, and hydrogen demand; 3) hazards and hazardous materials due to accidental release of ammonia, and potential fire hazard from reformulations of coatings, solvents, adhesives and lubricants; 4) hydrology (water demand and water supply) and water quality; 5) construction noise and vibration at roadways; and 6) solid and hazardous waste from construction and early retirement of equipment. However, only the mitigation measures for reducing potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts related to flammable reformulations of coatings, solvents, adhesives, and lubricants were determined to be capable of reducing these impacts to less than significant levels. Thus, mitigation measures were made a condition of project approval and were adopted. Further, since mitigation measures were adopted for the project, a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan,

pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines 15097 was also required and adopted.

6. Because the Final Program EIR concluded that the project will have potentially significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on the environment, Findings were made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 was adopted.
7. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15092(b)(2)(B), the South Coast AQMD has determined that the remaining significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable in accordance with the Findings made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 are acceptable due to overriding concerns described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.
8. The South Coast AQMD Governing Board reviewed and considered the Final Program EIR; the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan; and supporting documentation prior to making a decision on the project.

The Final Program EIR, the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan, supporting documentation for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR, and record of project approval may be examined at: South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

Signature:  December 2, 2022

Date Received for Filing

Barbara Radlein
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Planning, Rule Development, and
Implementation