

**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 429 – Startup and Shutdown Provisions for Oxides of Nitrogen

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**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.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 429 has been developed to provide an exemption from oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO) concentration limits during startup and shutdown events and establish requirements during startup and shutdown events to limit NOx and CO emissions. PAR 429 is applicable to combustion equipment utilizing continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMS), alternative continuous emission monitoring systems (ACEMS), or semi-continuous emission monitoring systems (SCEMS) and which are subject to the following South Coast AQMD rules: Rule 1134 – Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines; Rule 1146 – Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters; Rule 1147 – NOx Reductions from Miscellaneous Sources; Rule 1147.1 – NOx Reductions from Aggregate Dryers; and Rule 1147.2 – NOx Reductions from Metal Melting and Heating Furnaces. PAR 429 will: 1) provide an exemption from NOx and CO concentration limits in various Regulation XI rules during startup and shutdown for specified durations; 2) limit the frequency of scheduled startup events; 3) establish best management practices; and 4) enhance existing notification and recordkeeping requirements. No emission reductions are anticipated.

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<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District	<b>Agency Carrying Out Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District
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**Exempt Status:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption  
CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

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**Reasons why project is exempt:** South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 429) 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. It can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment because PAR 429 will not require physical modifications. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. The proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, because PAR 429 is designed to further protect or enhance the environment by limiting the duration and frequency of startup and shutdown events which will, in turn limit NOx and CO emissions. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions apply to the proposed project.

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**Date of Project Approval:** South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: September 2, 2022

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

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

 September 2, 2022  
Barbara Radlein  
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Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation