

**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 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares

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: Proposed Amended Rule 1118 (PAR 1118) addresses a United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) State Implementation Plan (SIP) limited disapproval of the July 2017 version of Rule 1118 because it grants the South Coast AQMD's Executive Officer sole authority to approve ASTM International (ASTM) standards not explicitly included in the rule. To remedy this issue, PAR 1118 expands the existing provisions, which currently allow South Coast AQMD to approve ASTM standards that are not otherwise specified elsewhere in Rule 1118, to also provide the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and U.S. EPA, as applicable, with the same approval authority. The beneficiaries of implementing PAR 1118 will be CARB and U.S. EPA through improving their oversight of reviewing and approving ASTM standards. Implementation of PAR 1118 will not result in emission reductions.

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

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1118) 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 proposed project is exempt from CEQA. Because the proposed expansion of the authority to approve other ASTM standards to include CARB and U.S. EPA and is administrative in nature and would not require physical modifications to occur, it can be seen with certainty that implementing PAR 1118 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: January 6, 2023

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____

 January 6, 2023

Barbara Radlein
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Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation