

**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 1180 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Petroleum Refineries and Related Facilities, Proposed Rule 1180.1 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Other Refineries, and Proposed Amended Rule 1180 and Rule 1180.1 Fenceline Air Monitoring Plan Guidelines

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 1180 (PAR 1180) applies to petroleum refineries that primarily produce transportation fuels, including gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel and facilities with operations related to petroleum refineries located on contiguous or adjacent properties (related facilities). Proposed Rule 1180.1 (PR 1180.1) applies to refineries that refine crude oil and/or alternative feedstocks that are not subject to PAR 1180. PAR 1180 and PR 1180.1 have been developed to: 1) address a lawsuit filed against South Coast AQMD (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 22STCP04398) because of an exemption for refineries with capacities less than 40,000 barrels per day; 2) enhance air quality monitoring by requiring real-time monitoring for additional air pollutants for PAR 1180 and require real-time monitoring for criteria pollutants, toxic air containments, and other pollutants for PR 1180.1; and 3) improve data accessibility by the public. Specifically, PAR 1180 includes requirements for: 1) conducting air monitoring at additional facilities; 2) monitoring certain air pollutants identified in the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment report, "Analysis of Refinery Chemical Emissions and Health Effects," finalized in March 2019, where feasible; 3) establishing notification thresholds for additional air pollutants; 4) conducting a specific cause analysis when air pollutants are detected above a notification threshold; 5) recovering community air monitoring costs via a fee schedule; 6) requiring an independent audit and corrective action plan for deficiencies identified by independent audit; and 7) providing additional specifications for compliance schedule, web-based fenceline data display and notification program, and quarterly reports. PAR 1180 also updates definitions and clarifies rule language. PR 1180.1 focuses on smaller refineries, which were previously exempted by Rule 1180, and implements community and fenceline air monitoring requirements similar to PAR 1180. In addition, Proposed Amended Rule 1180 and Rule 1180.1 Fenceline Air Monitoring Plan Guidelines includes updates for consistency with PAR 1180 and PR 1180.1. The monitoring features of the proposed project will provide information that will assist facility operators to detect air emission leaks early, so that the leaks or upset conditions can be quickly repaired and mitigated. Implementation of the proposed project will not result in quantifiable emission reductions, though indirect emissions benefits may be realized.

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
CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM CEQA (concluded)

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1180, PR 1180.1, and Proposed Amended Rule 1180 and Rule 1180.1 Fenceline Air Monitoring Plan Guidelines) 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. Because the potential preparation of monitoring sites and installation of monitoring equipment may be achieved via minimal construction equipment, 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. Further, the proposed project will enhance air quality monitoring and collect data and would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Thus, the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection. Finally, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: January 5, 2024

CEQA Contact Person: Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D.	Phone Number: (909) 396-3022	Email: fkhalaj@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3982
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PAR 1180 and PR 1180.1 Contact Person: Mojtaba Moghani, Ph.D.	Phone Number: (909) 396-2527	Email: mmoghani@aqmd.gov	Fax: (909) 396-3982
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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



January 5, 2024

Kevin Ni
Acting Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and
Implementation