



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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SENT VIA E-MAIL:

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City of Artesia

Community Development

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## **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Artesia Downtown Specific Plan (Proposed Project)**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff appreciate the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. Our comments are recommendations on the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the Proposed Project that should be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Please send a copy of the Draft EIR upon its completion and public release directly to South Coast AQMD as copies of the Draft EIR submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded. **In addition, please send all appendices and technical documents related to the air quality, health risk, and greenhouse gas analyses (electronic versions of all emission calculation spreadsheets, air quality modeling, and health risk assessment input and output files, not PDF files). Any delays in providing all supporting documentation for our review will require additional review time beyond the end of the comment period.**

Sensitive receptors are people that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants and include schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, elderly care facilities, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The Proposed Project will include residential units and is located in close proximity to freeways or other sources of air pollution, and to facilitate the purpose of an EIR as an informational document, it is recommended that the Lead Agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> to disclose the potential health risks<sup>1</sup>.

In the event that implementation of the Proposed Project requires a permit from South Coast AQMD, South Coast AQMD should be identified as a Responsible Agency for the Proposed Project in the Draft EIR. The assumptions in the air quality analysis in the EIR will be the basis for evaluating the permit under CEQA and imposing permit conditions and limits. Questions on permits should be directed to South Coast AQMD's Engineering and Permitting staff at (909) 396-3385.

The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*<sup>2</sup> is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process with additional guidance on strategies to reduce air pollution exposure near high-volume roadways available in CARB's technical advisory<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>2</sup> CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* can be found at:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/california-air-resources-board-air-quality-and-land-use-handbook-a-community-health-perspective.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> CARB's technical advisory can be found at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>.

The South Coast AQMD's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*<sup>4</sup> includes suggested policies that local governments can use in their General Plans or through local planning to prevent or reduce potential air pollution impacts and protect public health. It is recommended that the Lead Agency review this Guidance Document as a tool when making local planning and land use decisions.

### **Mitigation Measures**

In the event that the Proposed Project results in significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized to minimize these impacts. Any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be analyzed. Several resources to assist the Lead Agency with identifying potential mitigation measures for the Proposed Project include South Coast AQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook,<sup>5</sup> South Coast AQMD's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan,<sup>6</sup> and Southern California Association of Government's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.<sup>7</sup>

South Coast AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that air quality, greenhouse gas, and health risk impacts from the Proposed Project are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at [swang1@aqmd.gov](mailto:swang1@aqmd.gov).

Sincerely,

*Sam Wang*

Sam Wang  
Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR  
Planning, Rule Development & Implementation

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LAC240301-09  
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<sup>4</sup> South Coast AQMD. 2005. *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/air-quality-guidance/complete-guidance-document.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook>

<sup>6</sup> South Coast AQMD's 2022 Air Quality Management Plan can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan> (Chapter 4 - Control Strategy and Implementation).

<sup>7</sup> Southern California Association of Governments' 2020-2045 RTP/SCS can be found at: [https://www.connectsocial.org/Documents/PEIR/certified/Exhibit-A\\_ConnectSoCal\\_PEIR.pdf](https://www.connectsocial.org/Documents/PEIR/certified/Exhibit-A_ConnectSoCal_PEIR.pdf).