

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: County Clerks for Counties of
Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and
San Bernardino; and Governor's
Office of Planning and Research –
State Clearinghouse

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: South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard (PM2.5 Plan)

State Clearinghouse No: 2022050287 and 2016071006

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

Lead Agency Contact: Jivar Afshar
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Date of Certification / Project Approval: June 7, 2024

Project Location: The project is located in the South Coast Air Basin portion of the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, which includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

Project Description: The PM2.5 Plan provides the strategy for how the region will meet the 2012 annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5) as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2030, by relying on a selection of previously adopted control measures from the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the 2016 AQMP to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), ammonia, and directly emitted PM2.5. The PM2.5 Plan also includes: 1) a new control measure which seeks to establish an inventory of unpaved road dust sources and which is administrative in nature; and 2) a modified control measure to reduce PM2.5 emissions from chain-driven charbroilers via the same type of air pollution control equipment as contemplated for the original control measure such that no new impacts would be expected to occur. Implementation of the PM2.5 Plan would result in meeting the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard of 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter by 2030 and is estimated to reduce PM2.5 emissions by 3.35 tons per day relative to the 2018 base year emissions (equivalent to 1.36 tons per day relative to the 2030 baseline).


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

1. The South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard (PM2.5 Plan) is considered a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. The PM2.5 Plan implements a selected suite of control measures which were previously adopted in the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP.

3. The Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2022 AQMP, which included Findings, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan, was certified on December 2, 2022 (State Clearinghouse No. 2022050287), and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP, which also included Findings, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan, was certified on March 3, 2017 (State Clearinghouse No. 201607100); both Final Program EIRs evaluated the control measures which are being relied upon for the PM2.5 Plan, and analyzed their potential environmental impacts.
4. No new Initial Study would need to be prepared leading to either an EIR or a Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(1) because: i) there are no substantial changes proposed to the previously adopted control measures in the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP which are being relied upon in the PM2.5 Plan; ii) there is no new information of substantial importance to the control measures that were previously adopted in the 2022 AQMP and 2016 AQMP, and the new information is not comprised of new significant effects or substantially worsened or more severe significant effects that were not previously analyzed in the Final Program EIRs for the 2022 AQMP and 2016 AQMP; iii) there are no new or modified physical changes that would result from implementing the PM2.5 Plan which were not previously analyzed in the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP; and iv) there is no change to the previously adopted mitigation measures or the previously considered alternatives in the Final Program EIRs for the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP. Thus, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), a subsequent EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 would not be required and the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP can be relied on for CEQA compliance.
5. The mitigation measures developed in the Final Program EIRs for the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP for the previously adopted control measures in the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP upon which the PM2.5 Plan relies are also applicable to the implementation of the PM2.5 Plan and will remain in effect. [CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(3)]
6. Based on substantial evidence in the record and in accordance with the noticing requirements in CEQA per CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(e), the PM2.5 Plan is a later activity within the scope of the program approved earlier for the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP per CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c), and the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP adequately describe and analyze the activities associated with implementing the PM2.5 Plan for the purposes of CEQA compliance such that no new environmental document will be required. The analysis supporting this conclusion can be found in Appendix VIII of the PM2.5 Plan.

The following documents and records of their project approval may be examined at South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765:

- 1) Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the corresponding Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan;
- 2) Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP and the corresponding Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan; and
- 3) South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard Project (including the CEQA analysis in Appendix VIII) and other supporting documentation.

	Signature:		<i>June 7, 2024</i>
Date Received for Filing		Kevin Ni Program Supervisor, CEQA Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation	