



# SCAQMD SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The mission of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Public Advisor's Small Business Assistance Office is to help small business owners comply with clean air rules and regulations, and ensure that small business owners have a voice in the rule development process.

## Frequently Asked Questions

	<p><b>What defines a small business?</b> A business having 100 or fewer employees or with annual gross revenues up to \$5 million.</p>
	<p><b>How much do SCAQMD's small business assistance services cost?</b> SCAQMD provides these services free of charge. Please call 1-800-388-2121 or visit us at <a href="http://www.aqmd.gov">www.aqmd.gov</a>.</p>
	<p><b>What types of services are available?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Assistance - completing permit applications, issuing clearance letters and assisting with fee review filings.</li> <li>• Financial Assistance (dry cleaning grants).</li> <li>• Hearing Board Assistance - help with variance applications.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>What happens if a business owner cannot complete required forms, or does not speak English?</b> SCAQMD can assist small business owners to complete all required forms. This assistance is available in multiple languages.</p>
	<p><b>What happens if a business cannot immediately comply with air pollution control laws?</b> In order to continue operations, a business will need to obtain a variance by filing a petition and appearing before the SCAQMD Hearing Board.</p>
	<p><b>What is the SCAQMD Hearing Board?</b> The SCAQMD Hearing Board is a five-member independent panel that hears appeals from businesses and the public. The Hearing Board has the authority to provide businesses temporary relief from rule requirements.</p>
	<p><b>What kind of technical assistance is available?</b> SCAQMD's Public Advisor's Office has engineers and inspectors available to help small business owners understand SCAQMD rules and regulations, to provide no-fault inspections, and to assist businesses with regulatory record keeping.</p>
	<p><b>What kind of financial assistance is available?</b> If you are a dry cleaner operating within SCAQMD's four county jurisdiction, SCAQMD can help you switch to a dry cleaning machine that does not use the toxic chemical perchloroethylene (perc). Grants up to \$20,000 are available. Please inquire about funding through other SCAQMD programs.</p>
	<p><b>What is the SCAQMD Fee Review Committee?</b> The Fee Review Committee resolves fee related disputes between owner/operators and the SCAQMD. The Fee Review Committee has the authority to adjust fees or reinstate permits when an administrative error by the SCAQMD has occurred.</p>

South Coast Air Quality Management District • Visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov) or call 1-800-388-2121

*Cleaning the air that we breathe...™*