

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

To: Clerk of the Board, Bob Dutton
County of San Bernardino
385 N Arrowhead Ave, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130

From: South Coast Air Quality Management
District (South Coast AQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Cost Recovery Provisions in the Proposed Cooperative Agreement Between the South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles

Project Location: The entities subject to the cost recovery provisions in the Proposed Cooperative Agreement are the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles which are both located within Los Angeles County within the South Coast AQMD's 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: The cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement between South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles establish the payments which are to be paid by the Ports in order for South Coast AQMD to recover its reasonable costs associated with review and verification of revised draft Port Zero-Emissions Infrastructure Plans (Plans), draft modified Plans, time extension requests, and annual reports. The cost recovery provisions, which apply to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, specify: 1) hourly rates to recover expenses for the cost of reviewing and verifying each revised draft Plan, draft modified Plan, time extension request, and report; and 2) payment cap of \$100,000 per review. The cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement enable South Coast AQMD to meet operating expenses while executing the requirements and terms of the proposed Cooperative Agreement.

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 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project 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. The cost recovery provisions in the proposed Cooperative Agreement between South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because they involve charges established by the South Coast AQMD, a public agency, for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements associated with executing the requirements and terms of the proposed Cooperative the Agreement.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: November 7, 2025

CEQA Contact Person:
Farzaneh Khalaj, Ph.D.

Phone Number:
(909) 396-2192

Email:
fkhalaj@aqmd.gov

Cooperative Agreement Contact Person:
Charlene Nguyen

Phone Number:
(909) 396-2648

Email:
cnguyen@aqmd.gov

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____

Kevin Ni

November 7, 2025

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

DATE FILED & POSTED

Posted On: 11.10.25

Removed On: 12.16.25

Receipt No: 36-11102025-830