




**Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District**

Our Vision  **Clean Air**

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Carly Barham
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution
Control District
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. We are requesting the views of concerned agencies and any interested persons regarding the scope of the analysis and content of the environmental document.

PROJECT NAME: Proposed Amendments to Regulation VIII, (New Source Review), and Other Associated Rules (commonly referred to as NSR Revisions).

PROJECT LOCATION: The NSR Revisions will apply in Santa Barbara County, in California State Tidelands waters, and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) within 25 miles of the coast of Santa Barbara County. California State Tidelands are coastal waters within three miles of the coastline.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District is proposing to amend its New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. NSR rules apply to businesses that are proposing to install or modify any emission unit or operation that requires a permit and that could emit regulated air pollutants. These amendments are designed to update the District's current NSR permitting program to reflect recent regulatory mandates, and to simplify the permitting process while maintaining an equally stringent rule set, among other changes. The principal changes that are proposed include:

- Replacing the Net Emission Increase (NEI) calculation methodology with the Potential to Emit (PTE) methodology;
- Revising the offset thresholds, ratios, and calculations;
- Adding offset exemptions for equipment replacements and emergency standby engines;
- Adding PM_{2.5} (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter) to the attainment pollutant permitting requirements;
- Revising the Air Quality Impact Analysis procedures; and
- Creating new Rule 809, Federal Minor Source NSR, to address federal requirements.

The District has published drafts of the proposed amendments that include the full text of all proposed regulatory changes, as well as background documents explaining the District's reasons for making these proposed changes. All of these documents are available on the District's web page for the proposed amendments at www.ourair.org/rules-under-development. Furthermore, physical copies are also available for public review at the District office at 260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.


PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION: The purpose of the Notice of Preparation is to obtain agency and public comments on the adequacy of the scope of analysis and content of the environmental information and analysis to be conducted, including significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be included in the Draft EIR.

EIR SCOPE OF ANALYSIS: The EIR is intended to provide decision-makers and the public with information that enables them to consider the environmental consequences of the proposed project. The EIR would identify potentially significant effects, and any feasible means of avoiding or reducing the effects through project redesign, the imposition of mitigation measures, or implementation of alternative(s) to the project. Consistent with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the District has identified that the EIR will focus on the following probable environment effects: air quality and global climate change. Impacts to other issue areas are anticipated to be less than significant and will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS: Please send your written responses to this Notice of Preparation to: Carly Barham, Air Quality Specialist, 260 N. San Antonio Road Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110 or by email at BarhamC@sbcapcd.org. Due to time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but **not later than 30 days** after the receipt of this notice.

Date: September 11, 2015

Signature:


Carly Barham

Title:

Air Quality Specialist

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