

**Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the
Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

**BAAQMD Regulation 9, Rule 14 (Regulation 9-4):
Petroleum Coke Calcining Operations**

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Negative Declaration assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed Regulation 9-14 (proposed project) by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD or District). This assessment is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in compliance with the state CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations §15000 et seq.). A Negative Declaration serves as an informational document to be used in the decision-making process for a public agency that intends to carry out a project, it does not recommend approval or denial of the project analyzed in the document. The BAAQMD is the lead agency under CEQA and must consider the impacts of the proposed new and amendment rules when determining whether to adopt them. The BAAQMD has prepared this Negative Declaration because no significant adverse impacts are expected to result from implementation of Regulation 9-14, Petroleum Coke Calcining Operations.

1.2 SCOPE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed amendments on the following resource areas:

- aesthetics,
- agriculture and forestry resources,
- air quality,
- biological resources,
- cultural resources,
- geology / soils,
- greenhouse gas emissions,
- hazards & hazardous materials,
- hydrology / water quality,
- land use / planning,

- mineral resources,
- noise,
- population / housing,
- public services,
- recreation,
- transportation / traffic, and
- utilities / service systems.

1.3 IMPACT TERMINOLOGY

The following terminology is used in this Initial Study/Negative Declaration to describe the levels of significance of impacts that would result from the proposed rule amendments:

- An impact is considered *beneficial* when the analysis concludes that the project would have a positive effect on a particular resource.
- A conclusion of *no impact* is appropriate when the analysis concludes that there would be no impact on a particular resource from the proposed project.
- An impact is considered *less than significant* if the analysis concludes that an impact on a particular resource topic would not be significant (i.e., would not exceed certain criteria or guidelines established by BAAQMD). Impacts are frequently considered less than significant when the changes are minor relative to the size of the available resource base or would not change an existing resource.
- An impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation incorporated* if the analysis concludes that an impact on a particular resource topic would be significant (i.e., would exceed certain criteria or guidelines established by BAAQMD), but would be reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of mitigation measures.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The content and format of this document, described below, are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA.

- Chapter 1, “Introduction,” identifies the purpose, scope, and terminology of the document.

- Chapter 2, “Description of the Proposed Rule,” provides background information on Regulation 9-14, Petroleum Coke Calcining Operations, describes the proposed rule, and describes the area and facilities that would be affected by the rule.
- Chapter 3, “Environmental Checklist,” presents the checklist responses for each resource topic. This chapter includes a brief setting description for each resource area and identifies the impact of the proposed rule amendments on the resources topics listed in the checklist.
- Chapter 4, “References Cited,” identifies all printed references and personal communications cited in this report.

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