

California Environmental Quality Act

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Interested Parties

From:
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

Project Applicant: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Lead Agency: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Contact: Barry G. Young Phone: (415) 749-4721

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 21080(b)(8) OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15273

Project Title: Amendments to Regulation 3: Fees

Project Location: The regulation applies within the Bay Area Air Quality Management District ("Air District"), which includes all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, and the southern portions of Solano and Sonoma counties.

Project Description: The project consists of amendments to an existing Air District regulation that establishes fees for source operations and other activities. The amendments become effective on July 1, 2022. The amendments increase fee revenue to allow the Air District to meet budgetary needs for the upcoming fiscal year ending (FYE) 2023, and to continue to effectively implement and enforce regulatory programs for stationary sources of air pollution.

The following specific fees in Regulation 3 were proposed for a 15 percent increase: New and modified source fees, Emission Banking Fees, Emission Caps and Alternative Compliance Plans fee, Toxic Inventory maximum fee, Permit to Operate renewal processing fee, Assembly Bill 617 Community Health Impact fee cap, Criteria Pollutant and Toxic Emissions Reporting fee cap, Exemption Fee, Fee for Risk Reduction Plan, Fee for Facility-Wide Health Risk Assessment (HRA), and Fees for Air Dispersion Modeling. The fee rates in the following Fee Schedules would be increased by 15 percent: Schedule A: Hearing Board Fees, Schedule B: Combustion of Fuels, Schedule E: Solvent Evaporating Sources, Schedule F: Misc. Sources (storage silos, abrasive blasting), Schedule G-1: Misc. Sources (glass manufacturing, soil remediation), Schedule G-2: Misc. Sources (asphaltic concrete, furnaces), Schedule G-3: Misc. Sources (metal melting, cracking units), Schedule G-4: Misc. Sources (cement kilns, sulfur removal & coking units, acid manufacturing), Schedule H: Semiconductor and Related Operations, Schedule K: Solid Waste Disposal Sites, Schedule M: Major Stationary Source Fees, Schedule N: Toxic Inventory Fees, Schedule P: Major Facility Review Fees, Schedule S: Naturally Occurring Asbestos Operations, Schedule T: Greenhouse Gas Fees, Schedule V: Open Burning and Schedule W: Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking Fees. In Schedule C: Stationary Containers for the Storage of Organic Liquids, the base fee in the Risk Assessment Fee calculation was proposed to be increased by 15 percent. In Schedule D.A: Gasoline Transfer at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities, Bulk Plants & Terminals, the Risk Assessment Fee for existing gas dispensing facilities was proposed to be increased by 15 percent.

These new fees were proposed: (1) Section 3-302.7: Overburdened Community (OBC) application fee, which is a \$1,000 fee for applications requiring a health risk assessment in an OBC, (2) Section 3-327.4: A new Overburdened Community renewal fee, which adds a fee equal to 15% of the annual total permit renewal fee for a facility located in an OBC, capped at \$250,000 per year, (3) Section 3-318: Public Notice fee was amended to apply to any public notice requirement and (4) Schedule S: Naturally Occurring Asbestos, was amended by adding a new evaluation fee of \$3,200 and a \$179 per hour inspection fee when a Geologic evaluation is required. Other proposed changes were (1) Fee rounding language which was previously cited in specific fee schedules was deleted and consolidated in Section 3-344 and (2) Formatting and text clean-up.

On June 15, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District conducted a public hearing in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 41512.5, approved the project described above, and determined that the project was exempt from CEQA.

Finding of Exemption: This project is found to be exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080, subd. (b)(8) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273.

Basis for Exemption: The regulatory amendments which constitute this project modify charges by the Air District for sources of air pollution. The fees and modifications are for the purpose of meeting Air District operating expenses associated with the regulation of these sources and operations. The amendments are administrative in nature, do not affect air emissions from any sources, and have no possibility of causing significant environmental effects. As such, they fall within the statutory and guidelines exemptions cited above.

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Bay Area Air Quality Management District

