




MEMORANDUM

To: District Community Advisory Council

Contact: Michael Goldman (961-8821) 

Subject: Proposed Amended Regulation VIII – New Source Review

Date: November 10, 2015

Meeting: December 9, 2015

Project Summary:

The New Source Review (NSR) permitting program is an important tool to help the District meet our Clean Air Plan goal of attaining all State and Federal ambient air quality standards. The NSR rules require the District to evaluate proposed emission controls, offset mitigation packages and ambient air quality analyses when permitting new or modified stationary sources of air pollution. The current NSR rules have safeguarded our air quality since 1997, but they have recently become more difficult and costly to implement due to various circumstances that were unforeseen at the time of adoption. We are proposing to address these issues by amending ten rules, adopting one new rule and repealing one rule. The main changes include:

- Revising the rule text to be clearer and to eliminate redundancies;
- Reorganizing the rules for easier implementation;
- Updating the calculation methodologies;
- Updating the offsets program and adding new offsets exemptions;
- Updating our ambient air quality/increment analysis procedures;
- Adding PM_{2.5} as a regulated pollutant; and
- Adding a new Federal Minor Source NSR rule, as mandated by EPA.

Public Participation:

The District has circulated draft versions of the rule package to the California Air Resources Board, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Santa Barbara County community. The proposed revisions were publicly noticed on August 16, 2015 and two workshops were held. The first workshop was held at the District's office in Santa Barbara on September 17, 2015 and the second workshop was held at the Santa Maria Public Library on September 18, 2015.

Various stakeholders thoroughly reviewed the rules and submitted comments on the proposed language. The District has assessed all of the comments and incorporated some revisions to the rule package. A summary of the changes made since the workshops can be found in Chapter 7 of the Staff Report.

Proposed Adoption:

Based on the feedback received to date, we believe the current proposed amendments adequately address all stakeholder concerns. We plan to ask the Board of Directors to consider adopting the amended rules at a meeting in the Spring of 2016.

If there are questions or concerns you would like to discuss before the CAC meeting, please call me at (805) 961-8821 [e-mail: GoldmanM@sbcapcd.org] or call Timothy Mitro at (805) 961-8883 [e-mail to mitrot@sbcapcd.org].

Attachments:

- Staff Report
- Proposed Amended Rules – Notated versions
- Proposed Amended Rules – Clean versions