

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BAAQMD
NEW SOURCE REVIEW AND TITLE V PERMITTING REGULATIONS**

**BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rule 1: General Requirements
BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rule 2: New Source Review
BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rule 4: Emissions Banking
BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rule 6: Major Facility Review**

To all Interested Agencies, Organizations and Individuals:

Subject: Notice is hereby given that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) will be the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in connection with the project described in this notice. This Notice of Preparation is being prepared pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082 and 15083.

Project Title: Amendments to BAAQMD New Source Review (NSR) and Title V Permitting Requirements (BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rules 1, 2, 4 & 6).

Project Location: The regulation will apply within the jurisdiction of the BAAQMD, 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 BAAQMD is proposing to amend its New Source Review and Title V permitting programs. The proposed amendments will update the District's current NSR and Title V permitting programs to reflect recent regulatory developments, among other changes. The principal changes that would be made by the proposed amendments include:

- Adding new permitting requirements for fine particulate matter (specifically, particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 microns, or "PM_{2.5}") and for greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- Adding a "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (PSD) permitting program – an important sub-element of the NSR program – into District regulations for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Non-substantive revisions to reorganize and clarify the regulatory language to make it easier to understand and implement.
- Other miscellaneous revisions and updates to various regulatory provisions.

The major aspects of the proposed amendments are described in greater detail in the Initial Study that the District is publishing concurrently with this Notice of Preparation. In addition, 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.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Engineering/Proposed-Reg-2-Changes.aspx. Furthermore, physical copies are also available for public review at District Headquarters at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Ms. Carol Lee; Ms. Lee's contact information is provided below. Interested parties may also contact Ms. Lee for further information or if they have any questions regarding the proposed amendments.

Probable Environmental Impacts: The proposed amendments to the District's NSR and Title V permitting programs in Regulation 2 are intended to and expected to benefit public health and the environment. In particular, the proposed amendments will add new permitting requirements for PM_{2.5} and GHGs, which will help implement regulatory efforts to reduce emissions of these important air pollutants.

Notwithstanding these air quality benefits, adding new regulatory requirements can in some cases have the potential to cause adverse impacts if affected facilities need to add new pollution control equipment or otherwise change their operations in some way that could increase emissions. The District is therefore preparing an EIR to evaluate whether the proposed amendments could cause any significant increases in air pollution emissions (including GHG emissions) as a result of such changes. The potential for significant air quality and GHG impacts that will be evaluated in the EIR is described in more detail in the Initial Study.

As explained in the Initial Study, there are no other potential significant adverse environmental impacts that will be associated with the proposed amendments (other than the air quality and GHG issues noted above). Potential adverse environmental impacts to other environmental resources will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

Response to Notice of Preparation and Comments on Scope and Content of EIR: This notice (and the additional documentation referenced herein) provide information on the above project, and provide you an opportunity to submit comments on potential environmental effects that should be considered in the EIR. Please send comments on the scope and content of the EIR that will be prepared for this project to Ms. Carol Lee at the address listed below. **Comments on the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study must be received no later than July 16, 2012.**

Carol Lee, Senior Air Quality Engineer
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 749-4689
Email: clee@baaqmd.gov

Scoping Meeting: A CEQA scoping meeting is scheduled for the EIR for the proposed amendments. All interested agencies, organizations and individuals are invited to attend this scoping meeting to discuss the CEQA review process and the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held at the following time and place:

Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Second Floor Training Room
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please contact Ms. Lee for further information.