



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed amendments to VCAPCD Rule 74.2, Architectural Coatings, (proposed project). The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is reusing the 2009 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by VCAPCD for proposed amendments to VCAPCD Rule 74.2, Architectural Coatings.

Background

According to the County of Ventura Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines last amended July 13, 2010, (Section 5.4.3, Use of an Environmental Document from an Earlier Project, page 15), an agency may reuse an EIR, previously prepared and certified for one project, for another project if an Initial Study shows that the previous EIR adequately describes the current project's setting, impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures (State CEQA Guidelines §15153). According to the Initial Study for this project, the previous 2009 Final EIR for Proposed Amendments to Rule 74.2, Architectural Coatings, can be reused based on the following:

1. The proposed project is a more stringent version of VCAPCD Rule 74.2, will further reduce reactive organic compound (ROC) emissions from the use of architectural coatings and will further improve regional air quality. Since the air pollution source being regulated is identical to the previous project, and the control measure being implemented is similar, i.e., the requirement to use architectural coatings that are more environmentally friendly, the reuse of the 2009 Final EIR, which is identical in scope and impacts, adequately describes the settings and impacts for the proposed 2020 Proposed Amendments to Rule 74.2.
2. The issues raised by architectural coating manufacturers during the 2009 Final EIR that the rule requirements, which mandated the use of lower ROC content coatings, are counterproductive to air quality, are identical to those currently being raised. These issues were addressed in the 2009 Final EIR and the 2020 Initial Study for this project and in the Environmental Analysis (EA) contained in the 2019 Suggested Control Measure (SCM) Staff Report.
3. When the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted the 2016 Proposed Amendments to Rule 1113 (a more stringent version of proposed amendments to Rule

74.2), they adopted the corresponding Final Environmental Assessment (State Clearinghouse - SCH No. 2015091040). Because SCAQMD is a certified regulatory agency under CEQA, they have the ability to perform an Environmental Assessment instead of an EIR.

4. The proposed project is based on the 2019 SCM prepared by CARB. This SCM was updated from the previous update in 2007. Both SCMs went through the CEQA process by providing an EA in an effort to facilitate use of the SCM by local air districts such as VCAPCD. It was noted by California Air Resources Board (CARB) that their EA serves as a substitute document equivalent to an addendum to the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2000 SCM (State Clearinghouse – SCH No. 99062093) which explains CARB's determination that no additional environmental analysis is required for the proposed SCM in 2007 and 2019. The 2000 PEIR to the architectural coatings SCM concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of air districts adopting the state SCMs.

5. This action is allowed under the Ventura County Supplement to State CEQA Guidelines and CEQA Guidelines Section 15153, if the previous EIR adequately describes the current project's setting, impacts, alternatives and mitigation measures and no new significant impacts or mitigation measures are identified, provided an Initial Study is conducted. The 2009 Final EIR took a similar approach to analyses and references from CARB's 2000 SCM PEIR, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15150 and 15168. VCAPCD staff concluded that there will be no new significant adverse impacts from any of the aforementioned six potential impacts. Numerous air districts across the state have also determined no significant environmental impacts from lowering ROC limits in architectural coatings and have rightfully elected to claim the CEQA Categorical Exemption of Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment (15308), as also noted by CARB in their PEIR. However, VCAPCD chooses to provide an environmental analysis for consistency with the District's past 74.2 rule amendments process.

The DEIR was released for public review on August 14, 2020. The DEIR will be available for review at the VCAPCD office by appointment and on the VCAPCD website, as listed in this notice. Comments on the DEIR will be received for a 45-day period, **commencing on August 14, 2020 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on September 28, 2020**, after which a final EIR will be prepared containing comments and responses to comments that, together with the DEIR, will form the final EIR.

Project Title: 2020 Proposed Amendments to VCAPCD Rule 74.2, Architectural Coatings

Project Location: Ventura County

Project Description Summary: The amendments are proposed to implement CARB SCM for Architectural Coatings and the 2016 Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). These amendments consist of lowering ROC limits of select architectural coating categories and include new test methods (ASTM D6886 or SCAQMD Test Method 313) for waterborne coatings with VOC content less than 150 grams per liter.

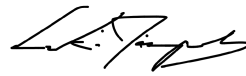
Potential environmental effects identified in the DEIR were identical to the 2009 EIR which includes: air quality, water demand and quality, public services, transportation and circulation, solid and hazardous waste and health hazards. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the DEIR, which has been posted on the district website (www.vcapcd.org). **Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than September 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please send your response to Danny McQuillan, Air Quality Engineer, at the address shown above. For more information, his phone number is (805) 645-1432 and his email is danny@vcapcd.org. We will need a name for the contact person in your agency.

Public Review Process: The purpose of this Notice, consistent with Sections 15086 and 15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines, is to consult with and request comments from responsible agencies, organizations, and interested parties regarding the environmental analysis presented in the DEIR. The DEIR is being circulated for review and comment by appropriate agencies, as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification. In accordance with Section 15205(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Lead Agency has scheduled a 45-day public review period for the DEIR, ending on **September 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Date: 7/14/2020

Signature: 
Dr. Laki Tisopulos, P.E.
Air Pollution Control Officer

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15153, and 15375