Notice of Exemption

Project Title: Amendments to the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program and Periodic Smoke Inspection Program

Project Location: Statewide

Public Meeting Date: July 26, 2018; Agenda Item #18-6-5

Project Description: The Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP) allows CARB enforcement staff to inspect HD trucks and buses for compliance with opacity limits, labeling, and other requirements. The PSIP requires California HD diesel vehicle fleets to annually test their vehicles for compliance with the opacity limits. The amendments lower the allowable opacity limit for HD vehicles operating in California for both the HDVIP and PSIP, establish reporting requirements for the PSIP and smoke tester training requirements, and allow 2013 model year and newer engines to report on-board diagnostic data in lieu of performing the annual PSIP smoke test.

This notice is to advise that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board), as the lead agency, approved the above action on July 26, 2018.

CARB has determined that these regulatory amendments are exempt from CEQA under the general rule or “common sense” exemption (14 CCR 15061(b)(3)). CEQA Guidelines states “the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA” . This activity is also categorically exempt from CEQA under the “Class 8” exemption (14 CCR 15308) because it is an action taken by a regulatory agency for the protection of the environment. Based on CARB’s review it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that these regulatory amendments would result in a significant adverse impact on the environment. Further, the action is designed to protect the environment and CARB found no substantial evidence indicating the proposal could adversely affect air quality or any other environmental resource area, or that any of the exceptions to the exemption apply (14 CCR 15300.2). Therefore, this activity is exempt from CEQA. A brief explanation of the basis for reaching this conclusion is included in Chapter V of the Staff Report.
Staff prepared written responses to comments received during the May 25, 2018 Board Hearing that raised environmental issues pertaining to this item. The written responses to these environmental comments are included in the Responses to Comments on the Environmental Analysis for the Proposed Amendments to the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program and Periodic Smokes Inspection Program. Before taking final action, the Board considered and approved written responses to these comments as required by CARB’s certified regulations. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17. § 60007(a).)

The Staff Report and all other related documents are available for public inspection on the CARB webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/rulemaking/2018/heavy-duty-vehicle-inspection-program-and-periodic-smoke-inspection-program

These documents may also be examined at:

California Air Resources Board
Attn: Board Administration and Regulatory Coordination Unit
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Certified: [Signature]
CARB CEQA Unit

Date: 3/26/2019

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Resources Agency of California