

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Final Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Amended Rule 403 - Fugitive Dust

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PREFACE

This document constitutes the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 403 – Fugitive Dust. The draft EA was released for a 30-day public review and comment period from April 8, 2005 to May 11, 2005. Two comment letters were received from the public relative to the draft EA. These comments focused on the portion of PAR 403 related to weed abatement activities. As a result of these comments, the SCAQMD has removed the weed abatement component of the proposed amendments. The analysis in the Final EA has not been modified to delete the analysis of PM10 impacts resulting from the limited exemption for discing. This analysis is no longer applicable and should be disregarded. The conclusion regarding air quality remains the same; however, PAR 403 is expected to generate a net PM10 emission reduction benefit.

The draft EA with both the confined animal facility and weed abatement components concluded that the proposed project (the proposed amendments) will not create significant adverse impacts and is expected to produce a net benefit of 144 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions. The current version of PAR 403 that is scheduled to be considered by the SCAQMD Governing Board on June 3, 2005, without the weed abatement component, is expected to provide an even greater air quality benefit of 265 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions.

The modification to PAR 403 does not constitute a substantial change to the proposed project requiring recirculation of the draft EA prior to certification (CEQA Guidelines §15073.5) because no significant new information has been added to the proposed project; no new significant environmental impact would result; and there is no substantial increase in the severity of impacts. Although the description of the proposed project has been changed, the modification is the deletion of a component of the project which would have increased PM10 emissions by 121 lbs/day. No comments were received during the 30-day public review period associated with the remaining component of the proposed project (confined animal facilities) which would either support or challenge the findings in the draft EA. The removal of the weed abatement component from the proposed amendments increases the net benefit of the proposed project (e.g. a change from a net benefit of 144 lbs/day to 256 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions).

Aside from changes resulting from removing the limited exemption for discing, minor administrative modifications have been made to the text of the draft EA depicted using ~~striketrough~~ or underline, denoting deletions or additions, respectively. These changes to the document are minor and do not change the conclusions made in the draft EA or worsen the environmental impact analyzed in the draft EA. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15073.5(c)(2), recirculation is not necessary since the information provided does not result in new avoidable significant effects.

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CHAPTER 1 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Legislative Authority

California Environmental Quality Act

Project Location

Project Background

Project Objective

Project Description

Emissions Inventory and Emissions Reductions

Affected Industries

INTRODUCTION

The area of jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) currently exceeds state and federal ambient air quality standards for PM10 (fine particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter). These microscopically fine particles can originate from a variety of area sources, both natural and man-made, and from a variety of stationary source processes, which include direct emissions (referred to as primary PM10) and atmospheric chemical reactions that convert gases to particles (referred to as secondary PM10). Much of the ambient PM10 concentrations in the district are a result of soil dust entrainment, commonly referred to as fugitive dust.

Rule 403 was adopted in 1976 to prohibit fugitive dust from any earth-moving, transport, handling, construction or storage activity, and unpaved roadways from remaining visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. Subsequent amendments to Rule 403 have extended its applicability to additional fugitive dust generating activities.

The currently proposed amendments to Rule 403 (PAR 403) address two main issues:

- (1) Maintaining a limited exemption for activities associated with weed abatement activities (specifically discing) and a revision to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook, resulting in 121 pounds per day (lbs/day) of PM10 emission increases; and
- (2) Removing the existing exemption for agricultural operations directly related to the raising of poultry and other animals (other than dairy farms), also referred to as confined animal facilities (CAFs), resulting in a total of 265 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions;

The net effect of PAR 403 is an emission reduction benefit of 144 lbs/day of PM10. As a result, an Environmental Assessment (EA), which is a substitute document for a negative declaration (CEQA Guidelines §15252), will be prepared for this proposed project. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), this EA includes an evaluation of potential adverse environmental impacts associated with implementing PAR 403. Throughout this document, references to “proposed project” or “PAR 403” are one in the same and used interchangeably.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The California Legislature created the SCAQMD in 1977¹ as the agency responsible for developing and enforcing air pollution control rules and regulations in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) and in portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and Mojave Desert Air Basin, referred to herein collectively as the district. By statute, the SCAQMD is required to adopt an air quality management plan (AQMP) which outlines plans and programs to achieve compliance with federal and state ambient air quality standards for all areas within the district². Furthermore, the SCAQMD must adopt rules and regulations that carry out the AQMP³. PAR 403 implements in part, Senate Bill (SB) 700, which removes the exemption for agricultural sources from complying with local air quality rules and regulations. Because of the PM10 emission reductions associated with the proposed amendments to Rule 403, PAR 403 will not adversely affect the

¹ The Lewis-Presley Air Quality Management Act, Health & Safety Code §§40400-40540.

² Health & Safety Code, §40460 (a).

³ Health & Safety Code, §40440 (a).

implementation of AQMP control measures to reduce fugitive dust and achieve state and national ambient air quality standards within the district.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

PAR 403 is a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15378 and California Public Resources Code §21065. The SCAQMD is the lead agency for this project and has prepared this Final Draft EA with no significant adverse environmental impacts pursuant to its certified regulatory program. California Public Resources Code §21080.5 allows public agencies with certified regulatory programs to prepare a plan or other written document in lieu of an environmental impact report once the Secretary of the Resources Agency has certified its regulatory program. The SCAQMD’s regulatory program was certified on March 1, 1989, and is in SCAQMD Rule 110.

An environmental impact is defined as an impact to the physical conditions that exist within the area which would be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, or objects of historic significance. CEQA and Rule 110 both require that potential significant adverse environmental impacts of proposed projects be evaluated, and that feasible methods to reduce or avoid these environmental impacts be implemented. To fulfill the purpose and intent of CEQA, the SCAQMD has prepared this Final Draft EA to address the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with implementing PAR 403. The Final Draft EA is a public disclosure document intended to: (a) provide the lead agency, responsible agencies, decision makers and the general public with information on the environmental effects of the proposed project; and (b) be used as a tool by decision makers to facilitate decision making on the proposed project.

SCAQMD's analysis of PAR 403 shows that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are required to be included in this Final Draft EA to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15252(b)(2)). The analysis in Chapter 2 supports the conclusion of no significant adverse environmental impacts.

The draft EA was circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period from April 8, 2005 to May 11, 2005. Two comment letters were received from the public relative to the draft EA. These comments focused on the portion of PAR 403 related to weed abatement activities. As a result of these comments, the SCAQMD has removed the weed abatement component of the proposed amendments. The comments have been included in Appendix D of the Final EA, as well as the formal response stating that the weed abatement component of PAR 403 is no longer applicable, and has been removed.

The analysis in the Final EA has not been modified to delete the analysis of PM10 impacts resulting from the limited exemption for discing. This analysis is no longer applicable and should be disregarded. The conclusion regarding air quality remains the same; however, the net benefit of PM10 emission reductions changes from 144 lbs/day to 265 lbs/day.

Prior to making a decision on the proposed project, the SCAQMD Governing Board must review and certify the Final EA as providing adequate information on the potential adverse environmental impacts of PAR 403.

PROJECT LOCATION

The SCAQMD has jurisdiction over an area of 10,473 square miles, consisting of the four-county South Coast Air Basin (Basin) (Orange County and the nondesert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties) and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) and the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The 6,745 square-mile Basin, which is a subarea of the SCAQMD’s jurisdiction, is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. The Riverside County portion of the SSAB is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains to the west and spans eastward up to the Palo Verde Valley. The federal nonattainment area (known as the Coachella Valley Planning Area) is a subarea of Riverside County and the SSAB, bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains to the west and the eastern boundary of the Coachella Valley to the east. The entire district is shown in Figure 1-1.

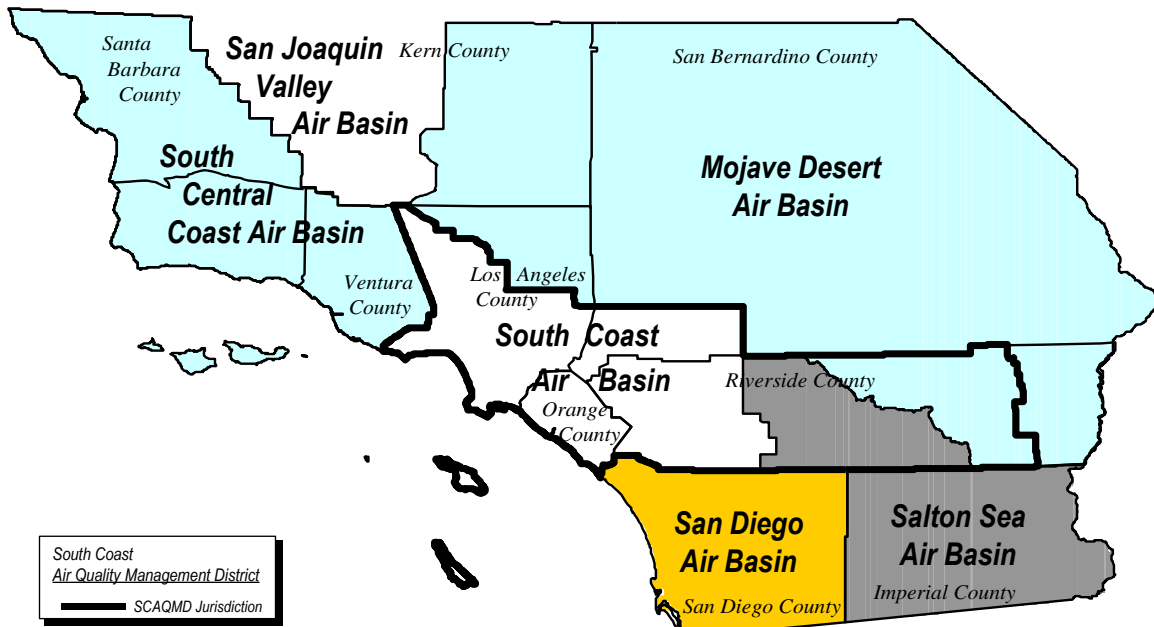


Figure 1-1
South Coast Air Quality Management District

BACKGROUND

Weed Abatement Activities

In 1976, Rule 403 was adopted to prohibit fugitive dust from any earth-moving, transport, handling, construction or storage activity, and unpaved roadways from remaining visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. Rule 403 has been amended several times since its adoption in 1976 to extend its applicability and require more stringent control measures. In particular, Rule 403 was amended in September 1992 to comply with 1990 Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements for PM10. Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) guidance for PM10 non-attainment areas, the 1992 Rule 403 amendments included a list of required control measures, deletion of a high-wind exemption, and additional requirements for large operations. The 1992 amendments did not alter the prohibition of visible emissions from crossing any property line. Because the 1992 amendments represented a considerable change over the 1976 rule, the adoption resolution included a requirement for SCAQMD staff to make a report to the Governing Board in July 1993 on the status of rule implementation efforts and any implementation constraints.

During the subsequent evaluation process for the 1992 amendments to Rule 403, public agencies responsible for requiring weed abatement activities indicated that many clearing activities are conducted at the property line of affected parcels to create firebreaks. Furthermore, the agencies indicated that, based on the close proximity to property lines, it was quite possible for emissions from weed abatement activities to cross property lines thus violating Rule 403 provisions. In response to these concerns and due to the importance of these activities for fire protection purposes, a limited Rule 403 exemption was proposed as part of the 1993 rule amendment process for weed abatement activities provided that mowing and maintaining weed stubble onsite was conducted. Recognizing that mowing was not always feasible due to physical obstructions, rocks, or fire hazard conditions SCAQMD staff proposed language that would allow discing for weed abatement activities, provided the agency issuing the weed abatement order made a written determination that mowing was infeasible for technical reasons. In order to reduce the potential for windblown emissions from areas either mowed or disced, the limited exemption included provisions that the site continue to be subject to the prohibition of visible dust emissions from crossing any property line when weed abatement activities had ceased.

In 2004, amendments to SCAQMD Rule 403 were adopted to conform to the latest U.S. EPA requirements to further reduce fugitive dust and the corresponding PM10 emissions through implementation of most stringent measures. The amendment included a requirement to water when conducting discing for weed abatement activities. This requirement is similar to the requirement for other fugitive dust sources (e.g. construction projects) and is currently required in other PM10 non-attainment areas (e.g. Clark County, Nevada; Maricopa County, Arizona; and the San Joaquin Valley in California).

Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs)/SB 700

California law has historically exempted agricultural operations from requiring air permits or complying with air pollution control rules or regulations. In recent years, agricultural operations were found to represent a significant source of air pollution. In an effort to improve air quality in air basins not in compliance with state and federal ambient air quality standards, such as the Basin which is designated 'serious' nonattainment, SB 700 was signed into law in September

2003 to reduce emissions from the agricultural sector. Under SB 700, agricultural operations are no longer exempt from obtaining air permits and are required to implement best available control measures (BACM) to reduce PM10. Existing SCAQMD programs currently require BACM for agricultural crop producers (Rule 403) and dairy facilities (Rules 1186 and 1127). PAR 403 would remove an existing exemption for agricultural operations such as confined animal facilities (CAFs) and requires CAFs, other than dairy farms, to implement the conservation management practices (CMPs) as outlined in Table 4 of proposed amended Rule 403 (see Appendix A). These specific CMPs affect the following source categories: manure handling, feedstock handling, disturbed surfaces, unpaved roads, and equipment parking areas. Under the proposed project, these provisions become effective January 1, 2006, to comply with SB 700 and to allow for a comprehensive public education/outreach program on the CMPs required for CAFs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of Rule 403 is to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of man-made fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions. The objective of PAR 403 does not change the overall purpose of the existing rule, but addresses two issues: (1) to remedy an implementation constraint associated with weed abatement activities in order to allow individuals and public agencies greater flexibility in complying with Rule 403 while still performing the weed abatement activities required for fire control; and (2) to eliminate the exemption from Rule 403 for CAFs, thereby, requiring them to implement CMPs to reduce PM10 emissions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following discussion summarizes the proposed amendments to Rule 403. Unless stated otherwise, the existing rule does not change. A copy of PAR 403 is located in Appendix A.

Purpose and Applicability

This section does not change.

Definitions

PAR 403 includes the addition of three new definitions.

COMMERCIAL POULTRY RANCH means any building, structure, enclosure, or premises where more than 100 poultry are kept or maintained for the primary purpose of producing poultry, eggs, or meat for sale or other distribution.

CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITY means a source or group of sources of air pollution at an agricultural source for the raising of 3,360 or more fowl or 50 or more animals, including but not limited to, any structure, building, installation, farm, corral, coop, feed storage area, milking parlor, or system for the collection, storage, or distribution of solid and liquid manure; if domesticated animals, including horses, sheep, goats, swine, beef cattle, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, or ducks corralled, penned, or otherwise caused to remain in restricted areas for commercial agricultural purposes and feeding is by means other than grazing.

DAIRY FARM is an operation on a property, or set of properties that are contiguous or separated only by a public right-of-way, that raises cows or produces milk from cows for the purpose of making a profit or for a livelihood. Heifer and calf farms are included in this definition of dairy farms.

Requirements and Exemptions

The requirements in Rule 403, which are proposed to be amended, are directly linked to the “exemptions” section of the rule. As a result, these two areas of the rule and their respective proposed amendments will be discussed herein together.

PAR 403 addresses basically two areas of the rule: (1) *Weed Abatement and the associated revision to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook*; and (2) *Agricultural Operations/Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs)*.

Weed Abatement/Rule 403 Handbook

Rule 403 currently exempts weed abatement operations provided that any discing or similar actions which cut into and disturb the soil include watering prior to the initiation of these activities. In response to agency (e.g. county agricultural commissioner offices; and state, county, or municipal fire departments) concerns over the feasibility of watering prior to discing, the SCAQMD is amending Rule 403 to allow discing without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the district indicating the technical reasons why watering is not feasible.

The Rule 403 Implementation Handbook (Handbook) provides guidance on how the rule is to be implemented. To maintain consistency with PAR 403, the Handbook will be revised to include the Flat Vegetation Test Method which provides guidance as to what is considered a stabilized surface following weed abatement activities. All other sections of the handbook will remain the same. The Flat Vegetation Test Method is included in this Final Draft EA as Appendix B.

A comparison of the existing rule requirements regarding weed abatement activities and the proposed rule requirements regarding weed abatement activities is shown in Table 1-1. The underlined language reflects the specific new language proposed to be applied to clause (g)(1)(J)(ii) of Rule 403.

**TABLE 1-1
OVERVIEW OF EXISTING RULE REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSED RULE
REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH WEED ABATEMENT ACTIVITIES**

EXISTING RULE REQUIREMENTS	PROPOSED RULE REQUIREMENTS
<p>(g) Exemptions (1) The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to: (H) Weed abatement operations ordered by a county agricultural commissioner or any state, county, or municipal fire department, provided that: (i) mowing, cutting or other similar process is used which maintains weed stubble at least three inches above the soil; and (ii) any discing or similar operation which cuts into and disturbs the soil where watering is used prior to initiation of these activities and a determination is made by the agency issuing the weed abatement order that, due to fire hazard conditions, rocks, or other physical obstructions, it is not practical to meet the conditions specified in clause (g)(1)(H)(i). The provisions of this clause shall not exempt the owner of any property from stabilizing, in accordance with paragraph (d)(2), disturbed surface areas which have been created as a result of the weed abatement actions.</p>	<p>(g) Exemptions (1) The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to: (H) (J) Weed abatement operations ordered by a county agricultural commissioner or any state, county, or municipal fire department, <u>or any specific governmental agency responsible for weed abatement activities</u> provided that: (i) mowing, cutting or other similar process is used which maintains weed stubble at least three inches above the soil; and (ii) any discing or similar operation which cuts into and disturbs the soil, where watering is used prior to initiation of these activities <u>unless all of the following conditions are met:</u> (I) <u>upon request, written documentation is provided to the Executive Officer by the agency issuing the weed abatement order that clearly indicates by specific site and location the District verifiable technical, non-economic reasons including, at a minimum one or more of the following, physical obstructions, slope conditions, safety factors, accessibility of water source, why watering prior to discing is not feasible; and</u> (II) <u>wind speeds are less than 25 miles per hour during weed abatement activities; and</u> (III) <u>measures, including, but not limited to, vehicle speed reduction, disc shrouds, or disc setting adjustments are used to prevent visible dust emissions from exceeding 50 feet from the source in any direction; and</u> (IV) <u>after weed abatement activities have ceased, the disturbed surface is resistant to wind driven fugitive dust or achieves a flat vegetative cover of attached or rooted vegetation or unattached vegetative debris of 50 percent or greater using the flat vegetative cover test method as included in the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook.</u></p>

Confined Animal Facilities

PAR 403 would remove an existing exemption for agricultural operations and require CAFs to implement CMPs related to manure handling, feedstock handling, disturbed surfaces, unpaved roads, and equipment parking areas. The amendments to Rule 403 related to agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) are shown in Table 1-2. Similar to Table 1-1 above, a comparison of the existing rule requirements and the proposed rule requirements are presented. The underlined language reflects the specific new language proposed to be applied to paragraph (d)(5); and subparagraphs (g)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) of Rule 403.

**TABLE 1-2
OVERVIEW OF EXISTING RULE REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSED RULE
REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS**

EXISTING RULE REQUIREMENTS	PROPOSED RULE REQUIREMENTS
<p>(d) Requirements (5) After January 1, 2005, no person shall conduct an active operation with a disturbed surface area of five or more acres, or with a daily import or export of 100 cubic yards or more of bulk material without utilizing at least one of the measures listed in subparagraphs (d)(5)(A) through (d)(5)(E) at each vehicle egress from the site to a paved public road.</p>	<p>(d) Requirements (5) After January 1, 2005, n No person shall conduct an active operation with a disturbed surface area of five or more acres, or with a daily import or export of 100 cubic yards or more of bulk material without utilizing at least one of the measures listed in subparagraphs (d)(5)(A) through (d)(5)(E) at each vehicle egress from the site to a paved public road. (6) <u>Beginning January 1, 2006, any person who operates or authorizes the operation of a confined animal facility subject to this Rule shall implement the applicable conservation management practices specified in Table 4 of this Rule.</u></p>
<p>(g) Exemptions (1) The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to: (A) Agricultural operations directly related to the raising of fowls or animals and agricultural operations, provided that the combined disturbed surface area within one continuous property line and not separated by a paved public road is 10 acres or less. (B) Agricultural operations within the South Coast Air Basin, whose combined disturbed surface area includes more than 10 acres provided that the person responsible for such operations: (i) voluntarily implements the conservation practices contained in the Rule 403 Agricultural Handbook; (ii) completes and maintains the self-monitoring form documenting sufficient conservation practices, as described in the Rule 403 Agricultural Handbook; and (iii) makes the completed self-monitoring form available to the Executive Officer upon request. (C) Agricultural operations outside the South Coast Air Basin, until January 1, 2005, whose combined disturbed surface area includes more than 10 acres provided that the person responsible for such operations: (i) voluntarily implements the conservation practices contained in the Rule 403 Coachella Valley Agricultural Handbook; and (ii) completes and maintains the self-monitoring form documenting sufficient conservation practices, as described in the Rule 403 Coachella Valley Agricultural Handbook; and (iii) makes the completed self-monitoring form available to the Executive Officer upon request.</p>	<p>(g) Exemptions (1) The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to: <u>(A) Dairy farms.</u> <u>(B) Confined animal facilities provided that the combined disturbed surface area within one continuous property line not separated by a paved public road is 1 acre or less.</u> (A) (C) <u>(C)</u> Agricultural operations directly related to the raising of fowls or animals and agricultural operations, provided that the combined disturbed surface area within one continuous property line and not separated by a paved public road is 10 acres or less. (B) <u>(D)</u> Agricultural operations within the South Coast Air Basin, whose combined disturbed surface area includes more than 10 acres provided that the person responsible for such operations: (i) voluntarily implements the conservation <u>management</u> practices contained in the Rule 403 Agricultural Handbook; (ii) completes and maintains the self-monitoring form documenting sufficient conservation <u>management</u> practices, as described in the Rule 403 Agricultural Handbook; and (iii) makes the completed self-monitoring form available to the Executive Officer upon request. (E) Agricultural operations outside the South Coast Air Basin, until January 1, 2005, whose combined disturbed surface area includes more than 10 acres provided that the person responsible for such operations: (i) voluntarily implements the conservation <u>management</u> practices contained in the Rule 403 Coachella Valley Agricultural Handbook; and (ii) completes and maintains the self-monitoring form documenting sufficient conservation <u>management</u> practices, as described in the Rule 403 Coachella Valley Agricultural Handbook; and (iii) makes the completed self-monitoring form available to the Executive Officer upon request.</p>

Additional Requirements for Large Operations

Compliance dates that have already passed will be removed.

Compliance Schedule

This section does not change.

EMISSIONS INVENTORY AND EFFECTS OF PAR 403

PAR 403 will address an implementation constraint associated with weed abatement activities (specifically discing) by allowing the discing of weeds without the use of water, provided the agency issuing the weed abatement order submits a written determination to the SCAQMD that watering is not technically feasible and that other effective control measures will be used during and after the discing operation. The current annual PM10 emissions inventory from weed abatement activities (specifically discing) is approximately 10.89 tons per year. The emissions associated with the weed abatement amendment portion of PAR 403 will result in 121 lbs/day of PM10 emission increases. While the PAR 403 staff report estimates that PM10 emission increases will range between 30 and 40 lbs/day, this estimation is based on an annual average. The CEQA analysis assumes a “worst-case” peak daily number (see Table 2-2).

PAR 403 will also remove the existing exemption for agricultural operations directly related to CAFs. CAFs will now be required to implement CMPs associated with manure handling, feedstock handling, disturbed surfaces, unpaved roads, and equipment parking areas. The current annual PM10 emissions inventory from CAFs is approximately 96 tons per year. Implementation of the CMPs outlined in Table 4 of PAR 403 is expected to reduce PM10 emissions from CAFs by 265 lbs/day (see Table 2-3).

A detailed discussion of the environmental impacts associated with PAR 403 are included in Chapter 2 of this EA.

AFFECTED INDUSTRIES

Weed Abatement Activities

Weed abatement activities are mandated by county agricultural commissioner offices and state, county, or municipal fire departments primarily for fire protection purposes, with the authority to conduct these activities granted under §14876 of the California Health and Safety Code. Weed abatement orders are typically issued by the appropriate agencies listed above with a specified compliance date. Property owners can contract for the work to be completed or can wait for agency action. After the mandatory compliance date has lapsed, agency personnel inspect the properties to determine if weed abatement activities have taken place. Non-compliant properties are scheduled for weed abatement and property owners are billed for the costs incurred by the agency. It is estimated that weed abatement activities related to discing will affect 9500 acres in Riverside County, 5700 acres in San Bernardino County, 114 acres in Orange County and 2842 acres in Los Angeles County.

Confined Animal Facilities/Agricultural Operations

Based on information from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) many CAFs have relocated outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the district. As a result, PAR 403 will focus primarily on poultry facilities and the few remaining other CAFs discussed below. Based on available data from the Poultry and Egg Production Association (PEPA) there are 34 active laying-hen poultry facilities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the SCAQMD. These facilities have approximately 8.4 million egg-producers, commonly referred to as layers. Further, according to PEPA, there are also seven CAFs for pullets (young hens usually less than one year old).

In addition to the laying-hen facilities, information provided by the CDFA indicates that there are two swine facilities, two sheep ranches, two facilities with goats (one for goat milk and one for goat meat), and two facilities that raise ducks within the jurisdictional boundaries of the SCAQMD that may be subject to PAR 403.

Based on this most available information, PAR 403 affects approximately 49 CAFs in the SCAQMD.

CHAPTER 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Introduction

General Information

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Determination

General Effects of the Proposed Project

Environmental Checklist and Discussion

INTRODUCTION

The environmental checklist provides a standard evaluation tool to identify a project's adverse environmental impacts. This checklist identifies and evaluates potential adverse environmental impacts that may be created by the proposed amendments to Rule 403.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Agency Name: South Coast Air Quality Management District
Lead Agency Address: 21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Project Sponsor's Name: South Coast Air Quality Management District
CEQA Contact Person: Kathy C. Stevens (909) 369-3439
Rule Contact Person: Michael Laybourn (909) 396-3066
Name of Project : Proposed Amended Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The following environmental impact areas have been assessed to determine their potential to be affected by the proposed project. Any checked items represent areas that may be adversely affected by the proposed project. An explanation relative to the determination of impacts can be found following the checklist for each area.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid/Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation./Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings |

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find the proposed project, in accordance with those findings made pursuant to CEQA Guideline §15252, COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and that an ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT with no significant impacts will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will NOT be significant effects in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. An ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT with no significant impacts will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Date: April 8, 2005

Signature: _____

Steve Smith

Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor – CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources

GENERAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

PAR 403 addresses two main issues:

(1) *Maintaining a limited exemption for activities associated with weed abatement activities related to discing, resulting in 121 lbs/day of PM10 emission increases.* Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities such as discing and similar operations without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible (e.g. physical obstructions, slope conditions, safety factors). PAR 403 will also include a revision to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook to be consistent with the proposed amendments (e.g. the Flat Vegetation Test Method will be added). The Flat Vegetation Test Method is a means to demonstrate that the disturbed surface is resistant to wind driven fugitive dust or achieves a flat vegetative cover of 50 percent or greater. The Rule 403 Implementation Handbook is advisory in nature and provides guidance on how Rule 403 is to be implemented. As a result, the proposed revision to the handbook is administrative in nature and has no affect on the environment.

(2) *Removing the existing exemption for agricultural operations directly related to the raising of poultry and other animals (other than dairy farms), also referred to as CAFs, resulting in 265 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions.* PAR 403 will remove the existing exemption for agricultural operations/CAF's and now require the implementation of CMPs for manure handling, feedstock handling, disturbed surfaces, unpaved roads and equipment parking areas.

The net effects of PAR 403 are as follows. PAR 403 provides a remedy for local agencies during weed abatement activities related to discing by providing a limited exemption from the watering requirement when it can be demonstrated that it is not technically feasible. PAR 403 also establishes a menu of CMPs for CAFs consistent with SB 700. The CMPs consist of a menu of fugitive dust control practices which can be applied to specific activities at CAFs. Typical CMPs to control PM10 emissions include covering, applying dust suppressants, reducing vehicular speeds on unpaved roads and reducing disturbed surface areas.

PAR 403 does not require the construction of any building or structure; the installation of any pollution control equipment; any land use changes, or acquisition and conversion of land from its original state; does not induce growth, require additional housing, public services or recreational facilities; and does not include provisions which will generate non-hazardous solid waste, or require the storage, handling, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste.

Further, in previous amendments to Rule 403, detailed environmental analyses were conducted to identify potentially significant adverse secondary impacts from implementing dust control methods, such as best available control measures, referred to in this document as CMPs. It is not expected that compliance with PAR 403 will entail new previously unanalyzed methods of dust control, but instead will apply some of the existing measures/practices to a new industry (e.g. CAFs). The Rule 403 Implementation Handbook will be modified to include the Flat Vegetative Test Method (see Appendix B) to enhance the enforceability of weed abatement operations (specifically discing) in conformance with PAR 403 requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:			
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance Criteria

Impacts on aesthetics will be considered significant if:

- The project blocks views from a scenic highway or corridor.
- The project adversely affects the visual continuity of the surrounding area.
- The affect of new substantial light or glare sources adversely affects residential areas or sensitive receptors.

AESTHETICS DISCUSSION

(a) – (d) The proposed amendments to Rule 403 do not require the construction of any building, structure or other edifice that could obstruct or damage views of scenic resources, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway. Adoption of the proposed amendments will further control fugitive dust emissions in the district, which will fulfill PM10 State Implementation Plan (SIP) commitment requirements. A new test method will be added to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook to enhance the enforceability of weed abatement operations (specifically discing) in conformance with PAR 403 requirements. Implementing the proposed amendments will have a beneficial impact on aesthetics by reducing fugitive dust and preventing wind erosion that may otherwise obstruct or damage scenic vistas, affect visibility, or substantially degrade the existing visual character of the area.

Further, the proposed project will not require the implementation of any nighttime activities, which might create any new sources of light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in any scenic area.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on aesthetics. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on agricultural resources will be considered significant if:

- The project conflicts with existing zoning, agricultural use or Williamson Act contracts.
- The project converts prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance to a non-agricultural use.
- The project involves changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.

AGRICULTURE RESOURCES DISCUSSION

(a) – (c) Extending CMPs to agricultural operations, as well as the other provisions of PAR 403, will not require the taking of any land for the construction of any building or structure, and does not require conversion of farmland to other uses. The proposed amendments will not convert any existing, prime or unique farmland to a non-agricultural use; nor will the proposed amendments cause other changes to the existing environment which would result in the conversion of any existing, prime or unique farmland to a non-agricultural use. Extending CMPs to agricultural operations will be beneficial by reducing wind erosion and fugitive dust in the district. Further, PAR 403 has no effect on where weed abatement activities will occur, or where agricultural operations are sited.

The California Land Conservation Act, better known as the Williamson Act, has been the state’s premier agricultural land protection program since its enactment in 1965. Nearly 16 million of the state’s 30 million acres of farm and ranch land are currently protected under the Williamson Act. The California legislature passed the Williamson Act to preserve agricultural and open space lands by discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses. The Act creates an arrangement whereby private landowners contract with counties and cities to voluntarily restrict land to agricultural and open-space uses. The vehicle for these agreements is a rolling term 10-year contract (i.e. unless either party files a “notice of nonrenewal” the contract is automatically renewed annually for an additional year). In return, restricted parcels are assessed for property tax purposes at a rate consistent with their actual use, rather than potential market value. Since PAR 403 has no effect on the existing location of agricultural operation (e.g. CAF), or require the conversion of any farmland to a non-farmland use, there is no conflict with any Williamson Act contracts.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on agricultural resources. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Diminish an existing air quality rule or future compliance requirement resulting in a significant increase in air pollutant(s)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Potential significant adverse air quality impacts will be evaluated and compared to the significance criteria in Table 2-1. If impacts equal or exceed any of the following criteria, they will be considered significant.

**TABLE 2-1
Air Quality Significance Thresholds**

Mass Daily Thresholds		
Pollutant	Construction	Operation
Oxides of nitrogen (NOx)	100 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
Volatile organic compound (VOC)	75 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
Particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM10)	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
Sulfur Oxide (SOx)	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
Carbon monoxide (CO)	550 lbs/day	550 lbs/day
Lead	3 lbs/day	3 lbs/day
Toxic Air Contaminants and Odor Thresholds		
Toxic air contaminants (TACs) (including carcinogens and non-carcinogens)	Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk ≥ 10 in 1 million Hazard Index ≥ 1.0 (project increment) Hazard Index ≥ 3.0 (facility-wide)	
Odor	Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402	
Ambient Air Quality for Criteria Pollutants ^(a)		
NO ₂ 1-hour average annual average	In attainment; significant if project causes or contributes to an exceedance of any standard: 0.25 parts per million (state) 0.053 parts per million (federal)	
PM10 24-hour average annual geometric average annual arithmetic mean	10.4 ug/m ³ (recommended for construction) ^(b) 2.5 ug/m ³ (operation) 1.0 ug/m ³ 20 ug/m ³	
Sulfate 24-hour average	1 ug/m ³	
CO 1-hour average 8-hour average	In attainment; significant if project causes or contributes to an exceedances of any standard: 20 parts per million (state) 9.0 parts per million (state/federal)	
<p>(a) Ambient air quality thresholds for criteria pollutants based on SCAQMD Rule 1303, Table A-2 unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>(b) Ambient air quality threshold based on SCAQMD Rule 403.</p> <p>ug/m³ = microgram per cubic meter; mg/m³ = milligram per cubic meter.</p>		

AIR QUALITY DISCUSSION

(a) & (f) The SCAQMD is required by law to prepare a comprehensive basinwide AQMP which includes strategies (e.g., control measures) to reduce emission levels to achieve and maintain state and federal ambient air quality standards, and to ensure that new sources of emissions are planned and operated so as to be consistent with the SCAQMD's air quality goals. The AQMP's air pollution reduction strategies include control measures which target stationary, mobile and indirect sources. These control measures are based on feasible methods of attaining ambient air quality standards. Pursuant to the provisions of both the state and federal CAAs, the SCAQMD is required to attain the federal ambient air quality standards for all criteria pollutants, including PM10. PAR 403 will further reduce PM10 emissions, and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards.

Because the existing Rule 403 provisions to implement control measures consistent with the AQMP are not affected by the proposed amendments, PAR 403 will not obstruct or conflict with the implementation of the AQMP. Further, PAR 403 will not take the place of another rule, conflict with any existing rules, or displace the compliance goals of the SCAQMD or the AQMP.

(e) PAR 403 requires the reduction of PM10 emissions (fugitive dust). The control measures and rule requirements do not cause objectionable odors which could potentially affect a substantial number of people. The requirements of PAR 403 associated with weed abatement activities will not cause an increase in odors from existing conditions. The management practices set forth in PAR 403 to reduce fugitive dust during manure and feedstock handling, and on disturbed surface areas, unpaved roads and equipment parking areas at CAFs will not increase odors from existing conditions. In actuality, many of the CMPs that would be required by PAR 403 will indirectly reduce odor emissions when implemented.

(b), (c) & (d) There are two components of PAR 403 that have the potential to affect air quality. Air quality effects of each component are discussed in the following paragraphs. The emissions data to support the analysis is located in Appendix C and will be referred to when appropriate.

(1) Weed Abatement - Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities such as discing without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request. The documentation must clearly indicate the technical reasons why watering is not feasible (e.g. physical obstructions, slope conditions, safety factors). PAR 403 will also include revisions to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook by adding the Flat Vegetation Test Method to the Handbook to enhance enforceability of the discing provision. All other sections of the Handbook will remain the same. The Rule 403 Implementation Handbook is advisory in nature and provides guidance on how Rule 403 is to be implemented. The revision to the Handbook to add the test method is administrative in nature and has no affect on the environment.

The analysis of air quality impacts from the limited exemption includes the following "worst-case" assumption that all discing will occur without watering. Weed abatement activities typically occur during spring or early summer in preparation for fire season. Although weed abatement occurs over a three to five month period, to maximize air quality impacts it is assumed

that discing occurs over a 90-day period of time⁴. However, it is possible that emissions could occur over a three to five month period, thus, resulting in lower emission increases. Table 2-2 presents the air quality impacts associated with the limited exemption for weed abatement activities (discing) based on the following assumptions and methodologies.

To calculate air quality impacts, it is necessary to ascertain the total number of acres disced per year. According to local county representatives for each county in the district, there are a total of 18,156 acres per year (acres/yr) that are disced for weed abatement⁵. By applying a CARB emission factor of 1.2 pounds per acre (lbs/acre) to the 18,156 acres/yr, the annual PM10 emissions would be 21,787 pounds from discing. In accordance with current Rule 403 requirements, a 50 percent control efficiency can be achieved through watering, resulting in a PM10 emission factor of 0.6 lbs/acre. By applying a 50 percent control efficiency, the current annual PM10 emissions under Rule 403 is assumed to be 10,894 pounds from discing.

To obtain current peak daily PM10 emissions assuming discing occurs over a 90-day period of time, it is necessary to divide annual emissions by 90 days. The current estimate for uncontrolled (without watering) peak daily PM10 emissions associated with discing is approximately 242 lbs/day, and controlled (with watering) peak daily PM10 emissions are 121 lbs/day. Based on the limited exemption in PAR 403, this analysis assumes that discing activities will no longer include watering, and the peak daily emissions would increase to peak daily uncontrolled levels, or increase PM10 emissions by approximately 121 lbs/day. However, because discing could occur over a 90- to 150-day period, actual PM10 emissions increases could range between 121 lbs/day and 73 lbs/day. The 121 lbs/day of increased emissions, however; do not exceed the CEQA significance threshold of 150 lbs/day and is therefore not considered significant.

The increase in PM10 emissions associated with weed abatement activities, assuming a 90-day “worst-case” scenario, is presented in Table 2-2.

⁴ Weed abatement activities do not occur throughout the entire year; only for short three to five month durations between spring and summer (varies by county). While the PAR 403 draft staff report estimates that PM10 emission increases will range between 30 and 40 lbs/day, this estimation is based on an annual average.

⁵ Other applicable information on acreage owned by individual property owners or cities was not provided to staff and is not included in this analysis.

**TABLE 2-2
PM10 Emissions from Discing-Related Weed Abatement Activities**

Emissions Category	COUNTY				Total
	Riverside	San Bernardino	Orange	Los Angeles	
Annual Acres Disced ⁽¹⁾	9500	5700	114	2842	18,156
Uncontrolled Annual PM10 Emissions ⁽²⁾	11,400	6,840	137	3,410	21,787
Uncontrolled Peak Daily PM10 Emissions ⁽³⁾	126.6	76	1.5	37.9	242
Controlled Peak Daily PM10 Emissions ⁽⁴⁾	63.3	38	0.75	19	121
Peak Daily Increase in PM10 Emissions in the SCAQMD.	63.3	38	0.75	19	121

- (1) The acres disced were provided to SCAQMD rule development staff by county representatives.
- (2) The uncontrolled annual PM10 emissions were derived by multiplying the emission factor (EF) of 1.2 lbs/acre by the acres disced. The EF of 1.2 lbs/acre was derived from the CARB Emission Inventory Procedural Manual, Methods for Assessing Area South Emissions in California, Section 7.4, Agricultural Land Preparation, August 1997. (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/ei/areasrc/fullpdf/full7-4prev.pdf>)
- (3) Calculation of uncontrolled peak daily PM10 emissions: Uncontrolled annual PM10 emissions ÷ 90 days (“worst-case” scenario for weed abatement effort).
- (4) Controlled peak daily emissions are based on a 50 percent control efficiency (50 percent of uncontrolled peak daily PM10 emissions) resulting in an emission factor of 0.6 lbs/acre.

Note: Slight variations in the absolute differences shown in the table are due to rounding.

(2) Agricultural Operations - PAR 403 will remove the existing exemption for agricultural operations directly related to the raising of poultry and other animals (other than dairy farms), also referred to as CAFs, resulting in 265 lbs/day of emission reductions. CAFs will now be required to implement CMPs for manure handling, feedstock handling, disturbed surfaces, unpaved roads and equipment parking areas, which will result in PM10 reductions.

Based on site visits by SCAQMD staff, CAFs range from 10 to 40 acres in size. Fugitive dust (PM10) emission sources at these sites include unpaved roads, and windblown emissions from disturbed surfaces. In order to evaluate emissions from CAFs it was assumed that each facility typically has a one-quarter mile unpaved road, which is subject to 10 trips per day, and two acres of disturbed surfaces. The assumption of 10 trips per day includes one feed truck, one egg or product collection truck, and daily worker trips. It was further assumed that each facility has an average of two acres of disturbed surface areas. These assumptions were applied to all 34 active laying-hen poultry facilities within the SCAQMD, although some CAFs have paved roads and parking areas⁶. In addition, according to the Poultry and Egg Production Association (PEPA) there are seven pullet (young hens less than one year old) facilities; and according to information provided by the California Department of Food & Agriculture there are two swine facilities, two sheep ranches, two facilities with goats and two facilities that raise ducks within the jurisdictional boundaries of the SCAQMD.

As illustrated in Table 2-3, the implementation of CMPs at CAFs within the district will account for a total of 265 lbs/day of PM10 emission reductions.

⁶ There are 23 CAFs in Riverside County and 26 CAFs in San Bernardino County. No CAFs are located in Orange or Los Angeles counties.

**TABLE 2-3
PM10 EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES**

Fugitive Dust Emissions from Unpaved Roads					
County	Emission Factor^(*) (lbs/VMT)	Vehicle Miles Traveled⁽¹⁾ (VMT/yr)	Emissions Inventory⁽²⁾ (lbs/yr)	Emissions Inventory⁽³⁾ (lbs/day)	Emission Reductions⁽⁴⁾ (lbs/day)
Riverside (23 CAFs)	2.27	17,250	39,158	107.3	54
San Bernardino (26 CAFs)	2.27	19,500	44,265	121.3	61
Sub-Total		36,750	83,423	228.6	115
Fugitive Dust Emissions (Windblown)					
County	Emission Factor^(*) (lbs/acre/yr)	Acres of Disturbed Surface⁽⁵⁾	Emissions Inventory⁽⁶⁾ (lbs/yr)	Emissions Inventory⁽⁷⁾ (lbs/day)	Emission Reductions⁽⁴⁾ (lbs/day)
Riverside (23 CAFs)	868	46	39,928	109.4	55
San Bernardino (26 CAFs)	1333	52	69,316	190	95
Sub-Total		98	109,244	299.4	150
TOTAL					265

(*) EF Source is CARB Area Source Methodology, August 1997; Section 7.11 for Unpaved Roads and Section 7.13 for Windblown Dust.

(1) VMT/yr calculation – [# of facilities x 0.25 mile x 10 trips per day x 300 working days]

(2) Inventory calculation – [EF x VMT = lbs/yr]

(3) Inventory calculation – [lbs/yr ÷ 365 = lbs/day]

(4) Estimated emission reductions are based on a 50 percent control efficiency.

(5) Acreage calculation – [# of facilities x 2 acres of disturbed surface].

(6) Inventory calculation – [EF x acres of disturbed surface = lbs/yr]

(7) Inventory calculation – [lbs/yr ÷ 365 = lbs/day]

Construction

The CMPs provided in Table 4 of PAR 403 represent a menu approach enabling CAFs to implement one or a combination of management practices to comply with PAR 403. In order to analyze a “worst-case” scenario associated with implementing these CMPs, this EA evaluated one of the CMPs for unpaved roads (4b) because this requires the most equipment to implement the CMP. CMP (4b) requires covering frequently traveled unpaved roads with a low silt content material such as, asphalt, concrete, recycled road base, or gravel to a minimum depth of four inches. This EA evaluates the impacts associated with spreading gravel on the unpaved road areas of a facility, including on-road emissions from trucks hauling gravel to the site, off-road emissions from the equipment (e.g. skip loader) to spread the gravel on the unpaved roadways, the on-road truck emissions associated with delivering the skip loader, and worker commute trips.

Table 2-4 is a summary of the results of the “worst-case” scenario evaluation. The detailed analysis is located in Appendix C.

**TABLE 2-4
CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORTATION AND
SPREADING OF GRAVEL ON UNPAVED ROADS AT ONE CAF**

Pollutant	Emissions (lbs/day)	SCAQMD Significance Threshold for Construction Activities (lbs/day)
CO	5.02	550
NO _x	22.83	100
VOC	0.95	75
SO _x	0.43	150
PM10	0.64	150

As shown above in Table 2-4, the emissions associated with spreading gravel at one CAF are less than the SCAQMD significance threshold. Upon adoption of PAR 403, affected CAFs have approximately six months to meet the compliance date of January 1, 2006. Of the 49 total affected CAFs, approximately 16 are estimated to have unpaved roads and could potentially choose to implement CMP 4b (the application of gravel on unpaved roads) at their facility. Based on the above summary of emissions associated with CMP 4b, operators at four facilities could apply gravel to their unpaved roads on the same day without exceeding the applicable construction significance threshold.

It is unlikely that operators at more than four affected facilities will apply gravel on unpaved roads for the following reasons. Based on the anticipated adoption of PAR 403 in June, operators would have approximately six months to comply with the new fugitive dust CMPs. It is assumed that only operators of 16 of the 49 affected facilities would choose the CMP 4b and apply gravel to their unpaved roads. Further, it is likely that operators would contract from a limited pool of contractors to perform the hauling and spreading operations because of the specific nature of the work, the locations of the affected facilities (clustered in Riverside and San Bernardino counties) and the location of the gravel sources. Given the time it would take for the haul trucks to travel to the gravel site, load sufficient gravel, travel to the affected facility, unload the gravel and spread the gravel, etc., it is unlikely that more than two or three facilities could have gravel applied in a single day. For all of the reasons given here, it is unlikely that gravel would be applied to unpaved roads at more than four facilities in one day.

If construction activities resulting from the application of gravel overlap with weed abatement activities (discing), there would be an additive effect between the emission increases from discing and the emissions associated with applying gravel. As indicated in the above discussion, it is unlikely that operators at more than four facilities will apply gravel on the same day. If gravel were applied at four facilities, PM10 emissions would be approximately 2.5 lbs/day. PM10 emissions of 2.5 lbs/day plus 121 lbs/day equals 123.5 lbs/day, which is still less than the PM10 significance threshold of 150 lbs/day.

Conclusion

As demonstrated in the preceding discussions, construction emissions associated with the application of gravel on unpaved roads (CMP 4b) would not exceed any construction significance thresholds, even if this construction were to overlap with weed abatement activities. As of January 1, 2006 CAFs will become subject to CMP requirements in PAR 403, which are anticipated to result in a PM10 emission reduction of 265 lbs/day (see Table 2-3). This PM10 emission reduction benefit is reduced by potential emission increases related to the limited exemption for weed abatement (discing) activities. This analysis indicated that on peak discing days, PM10 emissions could increase by as much as 121 lbs/day. As a result, the net air quality effect of PAR 403 is a PM10 emission reduction of 144 lbs/day on a peak day, during weed abatement activities, when PM10 emission increases will be the greatest.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse environmental impact on air quality. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) | Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Conflicting with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on biological resources will be considered significant if:

- The project results in a loss of plant communities or animal habitat considered to be rare, threatened or endangered by federal, state or local agencies.
- The project interferes substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory wildlife species.
- The project adversely affects aquatic communities through construction or operation of the project.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DISCUSSION

(a) – (d) Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to continue performing weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and will now require implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

There are no provisions in PAR 403 that require or result in any specific disturbance of habitat or have a direct or indirect impact on plant or animal species. The proposed amendments focus on implementation constraints associated with existing fire prevention activities (e.g. weed abatement) and reducing PM10 fugitive dust at existing CAFs.

Based on the project description above, PAR 403 is not expected to have a substantial adverse effect on any candidate, sensitive or special status species or their habitat, have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat, have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, or interfere with the movement of any fish, wildlife, migratory wildlife corridors or native wildlife nursery sites. The proposed project will extend fugitive dust control practices to currently exempt operations which is expected to improve air quality and reduce PM10 emissions.

(e) & (f) PAR 403 does not include the construction of any structures or buildings, or require any earth-movement activities which would affect biological resources. Further, the proposed

amendments further reduce PM10 emissions, and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards. These objectives of PAR 403 will not conflict with local policies, ordinances or plans adopted to protect or conserve biological resources.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on biological resources. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Impacts to cultural resources will be considered significant if:

- The project results in the disturbance of a significant prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social group.
- Unique paleontological resources are present that could be disturbed by construction of the project.
- The project would disturb human remains.

CULTURAL RESOURCES DISCUSSION

(a) – (d) Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

There are no provisions in PAR 403 that require or result in any specific disturbance of historic, archaeological or paleontological resources, or disturb any human remains. The proposed amendments focus on implementation constraints associated with existing fire prevention activities (e.g. weed abatement) and reducing PM10 fugitive dust at existing CAFs.

These proposed amendments do not require the demolition or construction of any buildings or structures, or other subsurface activities that could potentially adversely affect cultural resources. PAR 403 does not require modifications to existing historic, archaeological or paleontological resources, unique geologic features, or require site preparation activities such as grading or earth movement. As a result, the proposed project is not expected to disturb human remains or cemeteries.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on cultural resources. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. ENERGY. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the need for new or substantially altered power or natural gas utility systems? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Create any significant effects on local or regional energy supplies and on requirements for additional energy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create any significant effects on peak and base period demands for electricity and other forms of energy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Comply with existing energy standards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Impacts to energy and mineral resources will be considered significant if:

- The project conflicts with any adopted energy conservation plans or standards.
- The project results in a need for new or expanded utility systems.
- The project causes a significant affect on local or regional energy supplies.
- The project causes a significant affect on peak or base period energy demands.

ENERGY DISCUSSION

(a) – (e) PAR 403 will allow individuals and public agencies to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires the implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

There are no provisions of PAR 403 which would conflict with adopted energy conservation plans, result in the need for additional power or natural gas, create impacts on local or regional energy supplies, impact existing energy standards, or affect peak and base demands for electricity or other forms of energy.

Implementation of CMPs at currently exempt agricultural operations does not require energy intensive equipment or activities. Some construction equipment (e.g., skip loader) may be used to apply gravel consistent with CMP 4b; however, no more than 16 facilities are expected to implement CMP 4b, and the equipment would likely be used for less than one hour. This short-term use of construction equipment is not considered to be a waste of energy resources

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on energy resources. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | |
| ▪ Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on the geological environment will be considered significant if:

- Topographic alterations result in significant changes, disruptions, displacement, excavation, and compaction or over covering of large amounts of soil.
- Unique geological resources (paleontological resources or unique outcrops) are present that could be disturbed by the construction of the proposed project.
- Exposure of people or structures to major geologic hazards such as earthquake surface rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction or landslides.

- Secondary seismic effects could occur which could damage facility structures, e.g., liquefaction.
- Other geological hazards exist which could adversely affect the facility, e.g., landslides, mudslides.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS DISCUSSION

(a), (c), & (d) PAR 403 does not require the demolition of any existing buildings or facilities, or the construction of any new building or structure, that could directly or indirectly expose people to the risk of loss, injury or death associated with earthquakes, seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure or landslides. Further, since no construction is required as part of PAR 403, no buildings or structures will be located on expansive soils which could create a substantial risk to life or property.

(b) Rule 403 generally reduces the potential for soil erosion by requiring fugitive dust control and other soil stabilizing measures. The proposed amendments do not contain any provisions that would require the disruption of soils (subsurface activities) that could result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. In fact, the proposed project enhances current requirements to stabilize any soil disruptions specifically to prevent wind erosion that contributes to PM10 emissions and fugitive dust. Rule 403 currently specifies that the weed abatement exemption does not exempt the owner of the property from stabilizing disturbed surfaces which have been created as a result of weed abatement actions. PAR 403 adds the Flat Vegetative Cover test method to the Rule 403 Implementation Handbook to provide guidance as to what is considered a stabilized surface following weed abatement activities. The Flat Vegetative Cover test method is included in this EA in Appendix B.

(e) The proposed amendments do not include any provisions that require the generation or disposal of wastewater, the construction of infrastructure to support wastewater disposal to a sanitary sewer, or the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems. As a result, there is no impact to soils as a result of inadequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have an adverse environmental impact on geology or soils. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials?

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Emit hazardous emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) | Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) | Significantly increased fire hazard in areas with flammable materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts associated with hazards will be considered significant if:

- Non-compliance with any applicable design code or regulation.
- Non-conformance to National Fire Protection Association standards.
- Non-conformance to regulations or generally accepted industry practices related to operating policy and procedures concerning the design, construction, security, leak detection, spill containment or fire protection.
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals in concentrations equal to or greater than the Emergency Response Planning Guideline 2 levels.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISCUSSION

(a) – (c) Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

These proposed amendments require the implementation of CMPs to control and reduce fugitive dust emissions to bring the district into attainment with state and federal air quality standards. There are no provisions in the proposed amendments which would require or result in the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; create a significant hazard to the public; emit hazardous emissions, or require the handling of hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

One of the CMPs involve the use of chemical stabilizers to reduce fugitive dust. Previous environmental analyses of Rule 403 amendments prepared by the SCAQMD concluded that non-toxic chemical stabilizers are available, but must not be used if prohibited for use by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards; the California Air Resources Board; the U.S. EPA; or any other applicable law, rule or regulation. Further, it is the responsibility of the user to ensure that any chemical dust suppressant used is not prohibited for use by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards; the California Air Resources Board; the U.S. EPA; or any other applicable law, rule or regulation. According to a letter from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7, dated November 10, 1994, chemical stabilizer products listed for use for dust control are widely used in California for various purposes on soil, such as control of soil erosion, revegetation, slope stability, as well as dust control. As a result, it is not expected that any incremental increase in the use of chemical stabilizers will expose users or the public to hazardous materials.

(d) Government code §65962.5 refers to hazardous waste handling practices at facilities subject to the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). If any affected sites or operations are identified on such a list, compliance with the proposed project is not expected to affect in any way any facility's hazardous waste handling practices. The proposed amendments to Rule 403 do not affect in any way, existing hazardous waste handling practices or facilities subject to RCRA, or require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. PAR 403 has no effect on where weed abatement activities will occur, or where CAFs are located.

(e) & (f) The proposed project does not involve the use of hazardous materials, or create a hazard that could adversely affect air traffic or safety. Any weed abatement activities or CAFs located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport or within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would be existing operations and, therefore, would not be expected to create any new significant adverse hazards or hazardous materials impacts on air traffic or safety.

(g), (h) & (i) PAR 403 contains no provisions that could interfere with any adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. The proposed amendments do not require the construction of any building or structure which could expose people or structures to significant loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Weed abatement activities reduce the potential for wildland fires as their purpose is to reduce fire hazards. PAR 403 enhances weed abatement activities that involve discing. Similarly, complying with the proposed amendments does not require or involve the use of flammable materials that could increase fire hazards in areas with flammable materials.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not create a hazard or cause a significant adverse hazardous materials impact. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g. the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) | Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) | Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) | Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| k) | Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| l) | Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| m) | Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| n) | Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| o) | Require in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on hydrology and water quality will be considered significant if:

- The project causes degradation or depletion of groundwater or surface water resources substantially affecting current or future uses.
- The project results in a violation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.
- The capacity of existing or proposed wastewater treatment facilities and the sanitary sewer system are not sufficient to meet the needs of the project.
- The project results in substantial alterations to existing drainage patterns, or the course of a stream or river.
- The project requires the construction of housing or other structures within a 100-year flood hazard area.
- The existing water supply is insufficient to meet the increased demands of the project, or the project would use a substantial amount of potable water.
- The project increases demand for water by more than five million gallons per day.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY DISCUSSION

(a) & (f) PAR 403 does not include any provisions which would violate any water quality standards or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Rule 403 and PAR 403 requires the implementation of BACM and CMPs which include an option to apply water to disturbed surfaces to reduce PM10 emissions (fugitive dust). The water used (and allowed by law) for this purpose is typically either potable water or uncontaminated groundwater. Any use of contaminated, or potentially contaminated water for this purpose would violate water quality standards and thereby would be prohibited for use.

PAR 403 CMPs also include an option to apply chemical dust suppressants to disturbed surfaces to reduce fugitive dust. Previous environmental analyses prepared by the SCAQMD for amendments to Rule 403 concluded that non-toxic chemical stabilizers/suppressants are available. Existing Rule 403 defines chemical dust suppressants as non-toxic, and must not be used if prohibited by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), CARB, U.S. EPA, or any other applicable local, state or federal law, rule or regulation. Further, it is the responsibility of the users to ensure that any chemical dust suppressant they use is not prohibited for use by the RWQCB, CARB, U.S. EPA, or any other applicable local, state or federal law, rule or regulation. Potential users of chemical dust suppressants should contact local RWQCBs

to determine whether or not a product is environmentally safe. RWQCBs evaluate material safety data sheets (MSDS), other information as appropriate, and examine the area to be sprayed if necessary. RWQCBs do not maintain a list of approved suppressants, but evaluate the use of the suppressant on a case-by-case basis. Users are required to ensure that runoff does not flow from the use-area, migrate to any surface body of water, or percolate into the groundwater, if the suppressant is used in liquid form. Users must apply chemical dust suppressants in accordance with manufacturers' and RWQCB's recommendations to ensure that water quality is protected.

(b) & (n) Both the current Rule 403 and PAR 403 require the implementation of BACM and CMPs to reduce PM10 emissions (fugitive dust). The facilities affected by PAR 403 are required to choose from a menu of options, the specific control measures that would apply to their operations to control dust. One of the control measures includes the application of water to disturbed surfaces.

Using EPA's water use factor of 0.2 gallons of water used per square yard per day (EPA/s Fugitive Dust Background Document and Technical Information Document of Best Available Control Measures, September 1992), and a conversion factor of 4,840 square yards per acre, the amount of water needed if the agricultural operators chose to apply water to their unpaved roads (on a daily basis) is estimated to be approximately 94,864 gallons.

$$49 \text{ facilities} \times 2 \text{ acres/1 facility} \times 4,840 \text{ yards}^2/\text{1 acre} \times 0.2 \text{ gallons/1 yard}^2 = 94,864 \text{ gallons.}$$

An increase in water demand of 94,864 gallons per day is not expected to be a significant adverse impact as this potential increase in water demand does not exceed the SCAQMD's significance threshold of 5,000,000 gallons per day. Further, it is not expected that agricultural operators will need to apply water to their disturbed surfaces on a daily basis; the application may be less frequent.

(c), (d), (e) & (m) There are no provisions of PAR 403 which would alter existing drainage patterns, alter a stream or river, contribute to an increase in surface runoff, or require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities (or the expansion of existing storm water infrastructure). PAR 403 addresses implementation constraints for weed abatement activities and requires the implementation of CMPs at CAFs. Weed abatement activities are typically performed in early spring or summer, and are performed to protect the area from fire hazards during dry summer temperatures. PAR 403 has no effect on where weed abatement activities will occur or where CAFs are located. Further, as indicated in the discussion for item IX (b) & (n), watering for dust control at CAFs does not require substantial volumes of water that would contribute to surface runoff.

(g), (h), (i) & (j) The proposed project does not require the construction of any buildings, structures or facilities (including housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area which could impede or redirect flood flows. Similarly, the proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death resulting from the failure of a levee or dam. Since the proposed project does not require the construction of any buildings, structures or facilities (including housing), there are no structures, etc., subject to any potential inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

(k), (l) & (o) PAR 403 includes no provisions which will require wastewater infrastructure (e.g. capacity), or causes wastewater to be generated which would exceed treatment requirements, or result in the need for the construction of a new (or expansion of an existing) wastewater treatment facility. Further, the proposed project does not include any activities which would generate wastewater, such as the construction of housing. PAR 403 allows individuals and public agencies to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on hydrology and water quality. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:			
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance Criteria

- Land use and planning impacts will be considered significant if the project conflicts with the land use and zoning designations established by local jurisdictions.

LAND USE AND PLANNING DISCUSSION

(a) – (c) Typically, land use and other planning considerations are determined by local governments. Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. PAR 403 also removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations. Further, the proposed amendments do not require the

construction of any new structure or building, or demolition of any existing structure or building. As a result, the proposed project will not conflict with existing land use or zoning designations, physically divide an established community, or conflict with any habitat conservation or natural community conservation plan.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on land use and planning. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on mineral resources will be considered significant if:

- The project results in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.
- The project results in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

MINERAL RESOURCES DISCUSSION

(a) & (b) No provisions of the proposed amendments are expected to result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources, such as aggregate, minerals, etc., or the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource site. Implementing CMP 4b may result in an increased demand for gravel of 245 tons; however, it is expected that there are sufficient local supplies that are available to meet any increased demand for gravel resulting from PAR 403. PAR 403 allows individuals and public agencies to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

Based on the above, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on mineral resources. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XII. NOISE. Would the project result in:

- | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | For a project within the vicinity of a private airship, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on noise will be considered significant if:

- Project-related construction noise levels exceed local noise ordinances or, if the noise threshold is currently exceeded, project noise sources increase ambient noise levels by more than three decibels (dBA) at the site boundary.
- Project-related construction noise levels exceed federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) noise standards for workers.
- Project-related operational noise levels exceed any of the local noise ordinances at the site boundary or, if the noise threshold is currently exceeded, operational noise sources increase ambient noise levels by more than three dBA at the site boundary.

NOISE DISCUSSION

(a) – (d) No provisions of the proposed project expose persons to noise levels in excess of standards established in local general plans or ordinances, or standards of other agencies. PAR 403 does not include requirements which would expose people (either temporarily or permanently) to groundborne vibration or noise, or increase ambient noise levels.

PAR 403 allows individuals and public agencies to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities. This issue does not however, change the method of performing weed abatement activities (which generate noise), or the equipment used to perform these activities (which generate noise). Further, removing an existing exemption for agricultural operations directly related to CAFs does not include any provisions which affect existing noise levels because noise intensive equipment would not be required.

e) and f) No structures or buildings are required as part of the proposed project and, as a result, the proposed amendments are not anticipated to affect in any way airport land use plans or private airstrips. Weed abatement activities are typically used as a means of reducing fire hazards and generally occur in the same areas over time. CAFs are existing agricultural operations located generally in rural areas. PAR 403 has no effect on where weed abatement activities will occur or where CAFs are located and is not expected to result in a substantial increase in noise levels in the vicinity of any public or private airports.

Based on the above discussion, no significant adverse noise impacts will occur as a result of the proposed project. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g. through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts of the proposed project on population and housing will be considered significant if:

- The project displaces a substantial number of people or existing housing.
- The project creates substantial growth, either directly or indirectly.

POPULATION AND HOUSING DISCUSSION

(a) – (c) No provisions of the proposed amendments induce growth either directly or indirectly; or displace any housing or substantial numbers of people, requiring the construction of replacement housing. Implementing CMP 4b may require construction workers to transport or apply gravel to unpaved roads. It is expected however, that construction workers can be drawn from the existing labor pool within the district. PAR 403 includes no provisions to construct structures, buildings, facilities or housing and, as a result, will not affect in any way airport land use plans or private airstrips

Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and will now require the implementation of CMPs as part of their operations.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on population and housing. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance Criteria

- Impacts on public services will be considered significant if the project results in the need for new or expanded fire, police, school, parks or other public facilities, which would exceed acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

PUBLIC SERVICES DISCUSSION

(a) & (b) The proposed amendments further reduce PM10 emissions and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards. PAR 403 does not involve or require any action which would change existing conditions related to emergency responders, such as local fire or police departments (e.g. induce growth either directly or indirectly, or routinely transport, use or dispose of hazardous materials). Similarly, the proposed project will not affect in any way service ratios, response times or other emergency responder performance objectives. Further, PAR 403 does not require any action which would include demolition of existing structures, buildings or facilities, or the construction of new buildings, structures or facilities.

Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

(c), (d) & (e) No provision of PAR 403 requires the use of public services such as schools, parks or other public facilities. As indicated in the Population and Housing discussion, the

proposed project will not induce population growth, or require the construction of additional schools, parks, or other recreational resources. As a result, it is not expected that the proposed project would cause or require physically altered public facilities.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on public services. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. RECREATION.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts to recreation will be considered significant if:

- The project results in an increased demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.
- The project adversely affects existing recreational opportunities.

RECREATION DISCUSSION

(a) & (b) Because the proposed project is not expected to induce population growth, no provisions of the proposed amendments will increase the need for additional parks or other recreational facilities, or cause the deterioration of existing facilities. The proposed amendments further reduce PM10 emissions and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards.

Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

PAR 403 does not require the development or construction of new recreational facilities or require the expansion of existing recreational facilities, which could have an adverse effect on the environment.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on recreation. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. SOLID/HAZARDOUS WASTE. Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid and hazardous waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on solid/hazardous waste will be considered significant if:

- The generation and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste exceeds the capacity of designated landfills.

SOLID/HAZARDOUS WASTE DISCUSSION

(a) & (b) Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations. These proposed amendments further reduce PM10 emissions and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards.

The proposed project does not include or require a change to existing solid waste activities or procedures. As a result, no impacts on landfill capacity are expected. Further, implementation of the proposed amendments would not impede or hinder in any way compliance with any applicable federal, state or local statutes related to solid or hazardous waste disposal.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project will not have significant adverse impacts on solid and hazardous waste. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Significance Criteria

Impacts on transportation/traffic will be considered significant if:

- Peak period levels on major arterials are disrupted to a point where level of service (LOS) is reduced to D, E or F for more than one month.
- An intersection's volume to capacity ratio increase by 0.02 (two percent) or more when the LOS is already D, E or F.
- A major roadway is closed to all through traffic, and no alternate route is available.
- There is an increase in traffic (e.g., 350 heavy-duty truck round-trips per day) that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system.

- The demand for parking facilities is substantially increased.
- Water borne, rail car or air traffic is substantially altered.
- Traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians are substantially increased.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC DISCUSSION

(a) & (b) Under PAR 403, individuals and public agencies will be able to perform weed abatement activities (specifically discing) without having to water prior to the initiation of these activities if written documentation is provided to the SCAQMD upon request which clearly indicates the technical reasons why watering is not feasible. Further, PAR 403 removes an existing exemption for agricultural operations (e.g. CAFs) and now requires implementation of applicable CMPs as part of their operations.

As stated in the Air Quality section, this EA evaluates the potential impacts associated with implementing CMP 4b, covering unpaved roads with low silt content material (specifically gravel). The air quality section discusses the emissions associated with the transportation of gravel to a CAF and the spreading of the gravel on the unpaved roads at each facility as a worst-case scenario analysis.

As discussed in the Air Quality section of this EA, there is a potential for 10 heavy-heavy duty trucks (HHDT), one delivery truck, one skip loader and three additional worker commute trips to accommodate this effort at one facility.

PAR 403 is not expected to cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. Further, existing affected CAFs are located throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It is unlikely that truck trips/vehicular trips leaving two or more facilities will affect the level of service (or volume to capacity ratio) at a single intersection at the same time.

As indicated in the air quality analysis, based on the availability of construction workers and other constraints it is not expected that more than four facilities would implement CMP 4b in any one day, which means up to 44 new vehicle trips per day could be generated. It is not expected that any increases in traffic due to implementing CMP 4b and the potential additional truck/vehicle trips will cause an exceedance of the level of service established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. The potential increase of 44 trucks per day is not considered significant because it does not exceed the SCAQMD's significance threshold of 350 heavy-duty truck round trips per day. Further, truck trips will be dispersed throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties, so it is not expected that vehicle trips associated with implementing CMP 4b will substantially degrade the level of service (LOS) rating at any affected intersection. Similarly, an increase of 44 truck trips per day is not expected to result in inadequate parking capacity at any affected facilities or sites.

(c) There are no requirements in the proposed amendments which would affect air traffic patterns because PAR 403 does not include the transportation of any individuals or materials by plane. Further, the proposed amendments do not generate a significant increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks to local airports or airstrips.

(d), (e) & (f) There are no provisions in PAR 403 that include design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses that could create traffic hazards or result in inadequate emergency access. Further, the proposed amendments will not create an inadequate

emergency access situation or inadequate parking capacity situation. There are no requirements in the proposed amendments which would affect adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

(g) The proposed amendments further reduce PM10 emissions, and will assist the SCAQMD in its efforts to attain state and federal PM10 air quality standards. PAR 403 will have no effect on adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed amendments will not have a significant adverse impact on the traffic or circulation. Since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

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|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

(a) The proposed project does not require the construction of any building, structure, facility or housing, or require any changes to the existing land use, so the proposed amendments do not have the potential to adversely affect the environment, reduce or eliminate any plant or animal species or destroy prehistoric records of the past. In general, the net effect of the proposed amendments will be a net emission reduction benefit of 144 lbs/day of PM10.

(b) Based on the preceding analyses of environmental impacts, PAR 403 will not generate significant adverse project-specific impacts. In spite of the PM10 emission increases associated with the limited exemption for weed abatement activities (discing), the net effect of the proposed amendments is an emission reduction benefit of 144 lbs/day of PM10. Further, continuing to implement AQMP control measures is expected to result in a further reduction in PM10 emissions over time. PAR 403 does not cause a cumulatively considerable increase in PM10 emissions, but actually a net reduction in the district, and therefore, is not expected to generate significant adverse cumulative environmental impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

(c) The proposed amendments do not have the potential to cause environmental effects that will generate substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The net effect of PAR 403 is an emission reduction benefit of 144 lbs/day of PM10. Reducing PM10 emissions contributes to improving air quality in the district, which will result in direct beneficial health effect

