



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Launches Enforcement Initiative to Address Noncompliant Warehouses

First Phase Will Focus on Violators in Environmental Justice Communities

DIAMOND BAR—Today the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) announced an enforcement initiative to bring warehouses into compliance with its Warehouse Indirect Source Rule (Rule 2305). About 55% of warehouses that are required to provide information reports on the actions they took in the first year have yet to do so. Overall, there are 2,000 warehouses currently subject to the rule, with 1,400 of those currently out of compliance. Violators of air quality rules can face civil penalties of up to \$11,710 per day of noncompliance based on a strict liability standard.

In May 2021, the agency's Governing Board passed the Warehouse Indirect Source Rule, which requires warehouses greater than 100,000 square feet to take actions to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions or to otherwise limit exposures to air pollution in nearby communities.

"Time is up for those not complying with our rule," said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD Executive Officer. "Owners and operators of warehouses have known about these deadlines for two years. Communities near these facilities deserve to breathe clean air and our enforcement teams will work quickly to ensure that the facilities come into compliance as quickly as possible."

Since 2021, South Coast AQMD has been identifying and reaching out to warehouses, providing them with information, training, and assistance to ensure compliance with the rule. This week, the agency issued a [compliance advisory](#) to warehouse owners and operators advising them of rule requirements and past deadlines. South Coast AQMD's enforcement team is preparing to issue notices of violation that can result in daily penalties and further legal action. The agency will first focus on warehouses located in Environmental Justice communities.

Warehouses are a key destination for heavy-duty trucks and have other sources of emissions like cargo handling equipment, all of which contribute to local pollution. Emissions from sources associated with warehouses account for almost as much NOx emissions as all of the refineries, power plants and other stationary sources in the South Coast Air Basin combined. Those living within a half mile of warehouses are more likely to have higher rates of asthma and heart attacks and must endure a greater environmental burden. The rule is expected to reduce smog-forming emissions by 10-15 percent from warehouse-related sources.

South Coast AQMD's Warehouse Rule requires warehouse operators to earn a specified number of points annually by completing actions including acquiring and using natural gas near-zero and/or zero-emission on-road trucks, zero-emission cargo handling equipment, solar panels, or zero-emission charging and fueling infrastructure. Warehouse operators or owners can alternatively prepare and implement a custom plan specific to their site or choose to pay a mitigation fee. Mitigation fees will be used to purchase cleaner trucks and charging/fueling infrastructure in communities near the warehouse that paid the fee.

More information can be found at: www.aqmd.gov/waire.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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