



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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E-MAILED: April 2, 2013

April 2, 2013

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**Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement**  
**(Draft EIR/EIS) for the Proposed State Route 79 Project**  
**(Domenigoni Parkway to Gilman Springs Road)**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final CEQA document.

In the project description, the lead agency proposes to realign approximately 18 miles of State Route 79 (SR-79) occurring through the cities of Hemet, San Jacinto and in a portion of unincorporated Riverside County. The realigned highway would be a limited access, four-lane expressway, with two travel lanes in each direction divided by a median. Construction would begin in December 2015 and last approximately five years.

In the air quality analysis, the lead agency has analyzed daily project operational PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> impacts and localized CO impacts for 1-hour and 8-hour standards. In addition, regional construction emission impacts using the Sacramento Roadway Emissions Model were estimated and compared with the SCAQMD recommended daily significance thresholds. In addition to evaluating the above-mentioned air quality impacts, the SCAQMD recommends that the lead agency estimate localized air quality impacts to ensure that any nearby sensitive receptors are not adversely affected by the construction activities that are occurring in close proximity. It is noted in the Draft EIR that sensitive receptors are located within a quarter mile of the proposed project at various points along the proposed project's realignment route. SCAQMD guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found on the SCAQMD web page.<sup>1</sup> Should the lead agency conclude after its analyses that construction localized air quality impacts exceed the SCAQMD daily significance thresholds, additional construction mitigation measures have been compiled by SCAQMD staff that can be implemented if the air quality impacts are determined to be significant.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/LST/LST.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM\\_intro.html](http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html)

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Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Report. The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other air quality questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Ian MacMillan  
Program Supervisor, Inter-Governmental Review  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

IM:GM  
Attachment

RVC130212-02  
Control Number

### **Construction Air Quality Mitigation Measures**

- ❖ In the air quality analysis, the lead agency has determined that construction impacts will exceed the SCAQMD recommended regional daily significance threshold for NOx. Should the lead agency determine after further analysis that localized construction air quality impacts will also exceed other SCAQMD's daily significance thresholds for criteria pollutants, the AQMD staff recommends the following change and additional mitigation measures to reduce project impacts in addition to the measures proposed starting on page 3-376 in the Air Quality Section of the Draft EIR, if feasible:

#### Recommended Change:

##### Mitigation Measure AQ-1:

- Suspension of all construction equipment operations during ~~second~~first-stage smog alerts is required.

#### Recommended Additions:

- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more).
- Sweep streets at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water).
- Use street sweepers that comply with SCAQMD Rules 1186 and 1186.1.
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads to be reduced to 15 mph or less; and
- Reroute construction haul trucks away from congested streets or sensitive receptor areas. Cease grading during periods when winds exceed (as instantaneous gusts) 25 mph.

For additional measures to reduce off-road construction equipment, refer to the mitigation measure tables located at the following website:

[www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM\\_intro.htm](http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.htm) .