



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

# Public Workshop/Webcast: CEQA Guidelines & Thresholds Update

September 7, 2017

# Webcast Participants

---

Email questions or comments during the  
webcast:

**CEQA@baaqmd.gov**



# Today's Workshop

---

- Air District Objectives
- Purpose of the Update
- Overall scope of the Guidelines & Thresholds update
- Current CEQA Thresholds
- Significance thresholds development options
- Questions & Comments
- Schedule / Next Steps



# Air District Objectives

---

- Attain/maintain health-based State and federal ambient air quality standards
- Reduce local air pollution exposure in disproportionately impacted communities
- Ensure new development is on the pathway toward 2050 climate stabilization goal
- Support infill, transit-oriented development and affordable housing
- Complement other Air District, regional agency and local programs and efforts



# Purpose of the Update

---

- Review the justification for the current thresholds of significance and update as needed:
  - Current GHGs thresholds are not based on climate stabilization goals
  - Recent court decisions (Newhall, Cleveland Natl Forest, etc.)
  - Updated ARB Scoping Plan
  - New ambient air quality standards and State legislation (SB32)
  - New health studies related to air pollution exposure
  - Reevaluate guidance on addressing local exposure
- Review and update current CEQA Guidelines:
  - Outdated references
  - Incorporate new analytical methods and planning tools
  - Update screening criteria based on new thresholds and or methodology



# Key Considerations in Threshold Development

---

- Air pollution and GHG's are largely cumulative impacts
- Need to identify emission levels for which a projects' individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable
- Criteria pollutant thresholds based on attaining and maintaining the NAAQs and CAAQs
- Consistency with Statewide plans
- Pathway to 2050 climate stabilization



# Current CEQA Thresholds – Criteria Pollutants

## PROJECT LEVEL

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related	
	Average Daily Emissions (lbs/day)	Average Daily Emissions (lbs/day)	Maximum Annual Emissions (tpy)
ROG	54	54	10
NO <sub>x</sub>	54	54	10
PM <sub>10</sub> (exhaust)	82	82	15
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (exhaust)	54	54	10
PM <sub>10</sub> /PM <sub>2.5</sub> (fugitive dust)	Best Management Practices	None	None
Local CO	None	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg), 20.0 ppm (1-hr avg)	

**PLAN LEVEL:** Consistency with Current AQ Plan control measures; and Projected VMT or vehicle trip increase is  $\leq$  projected population increase.

**PLAN LEVEL (Transportation and Air Quality Plans):** No net increase.



# Current CEQA Thresholds - Local Exposure

<p><b>Risks and Hazards For new sources and receptors</b> (Individual Project)</p>	<p>Compliance with Qualified Risk Reduction Plan OR Increased cancer risk of &gt;10.0 in a million Increased non-cancer risk of &gt; 1.0 Hazard Index (Chronic or Acute) Ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> increase: &gt; 0.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> annual average</p> <p><u>Zone of Influence:</u> 1,000-foot radius from property line of source or receptor</p>
<p><b>Risks and Hazards For new sources or receptors</b> (Cumulative Threshold)</p>	<p>Compliance with Qualified Risk Reduction Plan OR Cancer: &gt; 100 in a million (from all local sources) Non-cancer: &gt; 10.0 Hazard Index (from all local sources) (Chronic) PM<sub>2.5</sub>: &gt; 0.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup> annual average (from all local sources)</p> <p><u>Zone of Influence:</u> 1,000-foot radius from property line of source or receptor</p>





# Current CEQA Thresholds - GHG's

---

Consistency with a  
Qualified Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy

– OR –

1,100 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>/Year

– OR –

4.6 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>/Service Population/Year  
(6.6 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>/SP/year for Plans)



# 2017 Update - GHG Threshold Development

---

- GHG thresholds based on 2050 goal
- Air District Resolution for achieving 2050 Statewide climate stabilization goals
- Recent Court Decisions
- SB 32 established a Statewide 2030 target of 40% below 1990 levels
- EO S-3-05 set target of 80% below 1990 by 2050 levels to attain climate stabilization
- Updated Scoping Plan



# 2017 Update – Criteria Pollutant Threshold Development

---

- Bay Area in nonattainment with state and federal ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient air quality standards
- Federal ozone standard revised in 2015
  - 0.075 ppm → 0.070 ppm
- Federal PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard revised in 2012
  - 15 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> → 12.0 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>
- Review thresholds in light of more stringent air quality standards, and increased temperatures from climate change



# 2017 Update – Local Exposure Threshold Development

---

- Supreme Court opinion on addressing localized exposure to air pollution
- Identify a methodology for determining whether a project's incremental contribution becomes significant
- Review thresholds in light of updated OEHHA standards, new PM2.5 health studies
- Outside of CEQA, encourage other ways to address this issue, e.g., local plans and ordinances (ex: City of San Francisco's Article 38)



# Webcast Participants

---

Email questions or comments during the  
webcast:

**CEQA@baaqmd.gov**



# Next Steps

---

- Targeted stakeholder meetings
  - *We would like to participate in your meetings*
- Release public draft of updated Thresholds and Guidelines
- Public workshops
- Air District Board Hearing



# Participate in the Update

---

- Provide early input
- Comment on draft documents
- Visit [www.baaqmd.gov/ceqa](http://www.baaqmd.gov/ceqa) for new information
- Request to be added to the notification list
- We encourage and appreciate your comments and suggestions



# Thank you!

---

Primary contact:

Jackie Winkel

[jwinkel@baaqmd.gov](mailto:jwinkel@baaqmd.gov)

415-749-4933

*[www.baaqmd.gov/ceqa](http://www.baaqmd.gov/ceqa)*

