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**CEQA Guidelines**

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## CEQA Guidelines

**UPDATED** 1/16/2014

UPDATE: January 16, 2014: On June 2, 2010, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors unanimously adopted thresholds of significance to assist in the review of projects under the California Environmental Quality Act. These Thresholds are designed to establish the level at which the District believed air pollution emissions would cause significant environmental impacts under CEQA and were posted on the Air District's website and included in the Air District's updated CEQA Guidelines (updated May 2012).

On March 5, 2012 the Alameda County Superior Court issued a judgment finding that the Air District had failed to comply with CEQA when it adopted the Thresholds. The court did not determine whether the Thresholds were valid on the merits, but found that the adoption of the Thresholds was a project under CEQA. The court issued a writ of mandate ordering the District to set aside the Thresholds and cease dissemination of them until the Air District had complied with CEQA. The Air District has appealed the Alameda County Superior Court's decision. The Court of Appeal of the State of California, First Appellate District, reversed the trial court's decision. The Court of Appeal's decision was appealed to the California Supreme Court, which granted limited review, and the matter is currently pending there.

In view of the trial court's order which remains in place pending final resolution of the case, the Air District is no longer recommending that the Thresholds be used as a generally applicable measure of a project's significant air quality impacts. Lead agencies will need to determine appropriate air quality thresholds of significance based on substantial evidence in the record. Although lead agencies may rely on the Air District's updated CEQA Guidelines (updated May 2012) for assistance in calculating air pollution emissions, obtaining information regarding the health impacts of air pollutants, and identifying potential mitigation measures, the Air District has been ordered to set aside the Thresholds and is no longer recommending that these Thresholds be used as a general measure of project's significant air quality impacts. Lead agencies may continue to rely on the Air District's 1999 Thresholds of Significance and they may continue to make determinations regarding the significance of an individual project's air quality impacts based on the substantial evidence in the record for that project.

Various tools and resources are available on this website to assist local jurisdictions in applying the Air District's CEQA Guidelines.

For more information, please contact Sigalle Michael, Senior Environmental Planner at [smichael@baaqmd.gov](mailto:smichael@baaqmd.gov) or 415-749-4683.

Learn more about the [updated CEQA Guidelines](#).

View the District's [1999 CEQA Guidelines](#).

To view the State CEQA Guidelines and related materials visit the [California Resources Agency](#).

## California Air Districts Launch Greenhouse Gas Exchange

Update: January 2, 2014

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), representing California's 35 local air districts, has launched the CAPCOA [Greenhouse Gas Exchange](#). The *Exchange* provides a reliable, low-cost, secure platform to encourage locally generated, high quality GHG emission reduction credits that can be used to meet CEQA or other compliance requirements.

## CalEEMod Release

Update: August 5, 2013

On July 31, 2013, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) released CalEEMod 2013.2. This land use model can be downloaded from [www.caleemod.com](http://www.caleemod.com). From this point forward, the BAAQMD will no longer support the use of Urbemis. Please perform all future analyses using CalEEMod. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Alison Kirk, Senior Environmental Planner at [akirk@baaqmd.gov](mailto:akirk@baaqmd.gov) or 415-749-5169.

### Bay Area Images



Napa County

### Air Quality Fact

It is the Air District's job to adopt rules and policies that are fair and equitable to all residents of the Bay Area and to ensure that community-level air pollution problems are not eclipsed by larger-scale policy issues.

### Give Us Your Feedback

Name:

Email:

Comments or questions:

(500 character limit)

I would like a response.  
(Allow 5-7 business days)

### Utility Buttons



#### Wood Burning Status

Friday, 1/24  
**No Spare the Air Alert in Effect**

SATURDAY, 1/25  
**WINTER SPARE THE AIR ALERT IN EFFECT**

ILLEGAL TO BURN

winter spare the air alert

Air Quality Widgets | BAAQMD

### Participate



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#### Recent Webcasts

[1/21/2014 CAPCOA GHG Reduction Exchange Public Workshop](#)

**More Information:**  
[Agenda](#)  
 (63 kb PDF, 1 pg)

[12/18/2013 Regular Board Meeting](#)

**More Information:**  
[Agenda](#)  
 (3 Mb PDF, 178 pgs)

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