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CEQA Guidelines

The District's CEQA Guidelines are developed to assist local jurisdictions and lead agencies in complying with the requirements of CEQA regarding potentially adverse impacts to air quality. These CEQA Guidelines were updated in June 2010 to include reference to thresholds of significance ("Thresholds") adopted by the Air District Board on June 2, 2010. The Guidelines were further updated in May 2011. 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 appeal is currently pending in the Court of Appeal of the State of California, First Appellate District.

In view of the court's order, 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 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 a 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.

For more information, please contact Sigalle Michael, Senior Environmental Planner at 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](#).

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. 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 or 415-749-5169.

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