

### 3. Thresholds of Significance

Projects that are subject to CEQA generally undergo a preliminary evaluation in an Initial Study. The Initial Study is used to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study should evaluate the potential impact of a proposed project on air quality. The air quality impact of a project is determined by examining the types and levels of emissions generated by the project, the existing air quality conditions, and neighboring land uses. The initial study should analyze all phases of project planning, construction and operation, as well as cumulative impacts. When considering a project's impact on air quality, a lead agency should provide substantial evidence that supports its conclusions in an explicit, quantitative analysis whenever possible.

The State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (included as Appendix D in this document) presents a modal initial study checklist. This checklist suggests criteria for determining whether a project will have a potentially significant impact on air quality. According to the checklist, a project will have a potentially significant impact if it will:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.
- Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

In addition, the District has adopted Thresholds of Significance to assist Lead Agencies in determining whether a project may have a significant impact on air quality. If a Lead Agency determines that the proposed project would exceed any of these Thresholds, then an EIR should be prepared. Where no significant air quality impacts of a project or plan can be identified in the Initial Study, the District recommends that the Lead Agency either prepare a Negative Declaration or include in the EIR a statement explaining the reasons for determining air quality impacts as less than significant.

### 3.1. FRAQMD Thresholds of Significance

Project Phase	Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM <sub>10</sub> )	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	Greenhouse Gases (CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> )
Operational	25 lbs/day	25 lbs/day	80 lbs/day	Not Yet Established	Not Yet Established
Construction	25 lbs/day multiplied by project length, not to exceed 4.5 tons/year *	25 lbs/day multiplied by project length, not to exceed 4.5 tons/year*	80 lbs/day	Not Yet Established	Not Yet Established

\*NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG Construction emissions may be averaged over the life of the project, but may not exceed 4.5 tons/year