

CEQA Thresholds of Significance¹

Project-Level

Criteria Pollutant Thresholds

Criteria Pollutant	Construction Average Daily Emissions (pounds per day)	Operational Average Daily Emissions (pounds per day)	Operational Max Annual Emissions (tons per year)
VOC	54	54	10
NOx	54	54	10
PM ₁₀	82 (exhaust)	82	15
PM _{2.5}	54 (exhaust)	54	10
PM ₁₀ /PM _{2.5} (fugitive dust)	Best Management Practices	None	None
Local CO	None	9.0 ppm (8-hour average), 20.0 ppm (1-hour average)	

Risk and Hazards Thresholds – Construction and Operations²

Risk and Hazards	Individual Project	Cumulative Threshold
Cancer Risk	10 in a million	100 in a million
Chronic or Acute Risk	1.0 hazard index	10.0 hazard index
PM _{2.5}	0.3 µg/m ³	0.8 µg/m ³

Greenhouse Gas Thresholds – Operational Only³

Greenhouse Gases	Projects other than Stationary Sources	Stationary Sources
GHG Emissions (including CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆)	Compliance with Qualified GHG Reduction Plan or 1,100 MT CO ₂ e per year or 4.6 MT CO ₂ e per service population per year	10,000 MT per year

Other

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related
Accidental Release of Acutely Hazardous Air Pollutants	None	Storage or use of acutely hazardous materials locating near receptors or new receptors locating near stored or used acutely hazardous materials considered significant.
Odors	None	5 confirmed complaints per year averaged over three years.

¹ The receptor thresholds were the subject of litigation in California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 369. The use of the receptor thresholds is discussed in section 2.8 of these Guidelines.

² Zone of influence: 1,000-foot radius from property line of source or receptor

³ Construction-related thresholds do not apply. The Air District recommends that for construction projects that are less than one-year duration, Lead Agencies should annualize impacts over the scope of actual days that peak impacts are to occur, rather than the full year.

Plan-Level

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related
Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistency with Current Air Quality Plan control measures, AND 2. Projected VMT or vehicle trip increase is less than or equal to projected population increase
GHGs	None	Compliance with Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy OR 6.6 MT CO ₂ e per service population per year
Risks and Hazards	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overlay zones around existing and planned sources of TACs (including adopted Risk Reduction Plan areas), AND 2. Overlay zones of at least 500 feet from all freeways and high-volume roadways
Accidental Release of Acutely Hazardous Air Pollutants	None	None
Odors	None	Identify the location, and include policies to reduce the impacts of existing or planned sources of odors

Regional Plans

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related
Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors, GHGs, and Toxic Air Contaminants	None	No net increase in emissions

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

CO: carbon monoxide

CO₂e: carbon dioxide equivalent

GHGs: greenhouse gases

MT: metric tons

NO_x: oxides of nitrogen

PM_{2.5}: fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less

PM₁₀: respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 10 micrometers or less

ppm: parts per million

ROG: reactive organic gases

SO₂: sulfur dioxide

TACs: toxic air contaminants