

April 12, 2002

**To:** Lead and Responsible Agencies, Consultants and Interested Persons

**From:** Norm Covell, Air Pollution Control Officer

**Subject:** **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)  
Revised Significance Criteria for Air Quality**

On March 28, 2002 the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) approved the following revised significance criteria/thresholds for pollutants emitted into the air.

**Mass Emission  
Thresholds**

Project Type	Ozone Precursor Emissions (Pounds/Day)	
	ROG	NOx
Short-Term Effects (Construction)	None	85
Long-Term Effects (Operation)	65	65

**Emission  
Concentration  
Thresholds**

California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) (*see reverse*).  
The CAAQS significance criteria are applied to all phases of a project in addition to the above mass emission thresholds.

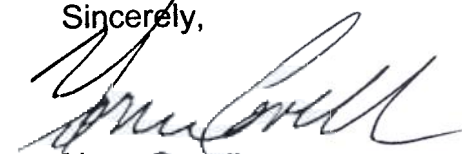
**Substantial  
Contribution  
Threshold**

A project is considered to contribute substantially to an existing or projected violation of a CAAQS if it emits pollutants at a level equal to or greater than five (5) percent of the CAAQS.

The revised criteria/thresholds became effective on March 28, 2002. To allow a reasonable transition to the revised criteria/thresholds, agencies may apply either the previous or revised criteria/thresholds for CEQA determinations made prior to May 17, 2002.

Please contact Matt Jones, 916-874-4835, or Greg Tholen, 916-874-4832, if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,



Norm Covell  
Air Pollution Control Officer

## California Ambient Air Quality Standards<sup>1</sup>

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Concentration <sup>2</sup>
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	Annual Geometric Mean	30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	24 Hour	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (470 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Lead	30 Days Average	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Visibility Reducing Particles	8 Hour (10am - 6pm, PST)	10 Miles (30 Miles Lake Tahoe) or more <sup>3</sup>
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Vinyl Chloride <sup>4</sup>	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )

**Footnotes:**

1. Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulate matter-PM<sub>10</sub>, and visibility reducing particles are values not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. (Table of Standards, Section 70200, Title 17, California Code of Regulations)
2. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25° C and a reference pressure of 760 mm of mercury. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25° C and a reference pressure of 760 mm of mercury (1,013.2 millibar). ppm = parts per million; µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter; mg/m<sup>3</sup> = milligrams per cubic meter.
3. In sufficient amount to produce an extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer – visibility of ten miles or more (0.07-30 miles or more for Lake Tahoe) due to particles when the relative humidity is less than 70 percent.
4. The standard notes that vinyl chloride is a "known human and animal carcinogen" and that "low-level effects are undefined, but are potentially serious. Level is not a threshold level and does not necessarily protect against harm. Level specified is lowest level at which violation can be reliably detected by the method specified. Ambient concentrations at or above the standard constitute an endangerment to the health of the public.