

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 – 009

Adopted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

UPDATE TO THE RECOMMENDED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

BACKGROUND:

- A. Section 15064.7 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines encourages public agencies to develop and publish thresholds of significance to use in the determination of the significance of environmental effects, and states that thresholds of significance adopted for general use as part of the agency's environmental review process must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation; developed through a public review process; and supported by substantial evidence.
- B. On October 23, 2014, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Board of Directors adopted Recommended Greenhouse Gas Emissions Thresholds of Significance (Resolution 2014-028) for land development project operational phase emissions, construction phase emissions, and stationary source emissions.
- C. Since the adoption of the Recommended Greenhouse Gas Emissions Thresholds of Significance in 2014, changes in State law and guidance documents along with updated CEQA case law resulted in the need to review the Recommended Greenhouse Gas Emissions Thresholds of Significance and prepare needed updates. Current local data was available to update the land development project operational phase emissions threshold.
- D. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District provides substantial evidence supporting the update to the recommended greenhouse gas emissions thresholds of significance in a document entitled *Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County*, final version dated March 4, 2020.
- E. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District conducted outreach on the thresholds update via public workshops January 9 and December 9, 2019. Staff coordinated with local lead agencies and the North State Building Industry Association in one-on-one meetings. Comments by stakeholders were considered and incorporated as needed into *Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County* document.
- F. The updated recommended greenhouse gas emissions thresholds of significance do not apply to a project that is exempt from CEQA; complies with the lead agency's adopted climate action plan or greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5; or utilizes the lead agency's own adopted thresholds of significance based on substantial evidence.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The development and adoption of the update to the recommended greenhouse gas emissions thresholds of significance meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7.
- Section 2. The construction phase and stationary source project thresholds of significance remain in place and are unchanged.
- Section 3. The recommended land development project operational phase greenhouse gas emissions threshold of significance is demonstrating consistency with *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan*.
- Section 4. A project within the jurisdiction of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District shall demonstrate consistency with *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* by implementing the following best management practices (BMP).

Tier 1 required for all projects to avoid conflicting with long-term state goals:

BMP 1: No natural gas. Projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure.

BMP 2: Electric vehicle (EV) ready. Projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier 2 standards, except all EV capable spaces shall instead be EV ready.

Tier 2 required for large projects or inefficient projects that do not screen out of further requirements:

BMP 3: Residential projects shall achieve a 15% reduction in vehicle miles traveled per resident, and office projects shall achieve a 15% reduction in vehicle miles traveled per worker compared to existing average vehicle miles traveled for the county or for the city if a more local target has been established to implement Public Resources Code Section 21099 regarding vehicle miles traveled and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's December 2018 *Technical Advisory On Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA*. Retail projects shall achieve a no net increase in total vehicle miles traveled, as required to show consistency with the *Technical Advisory*.

If a project cannot incorporate the required BMPs, other on-site reductions or offsite reduction projects would be required to mitigate the emissions. If offsite mitigation is utilized, the project, credit, or registry must demonstrate with substantial evidence that the offset is real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, enforceable, and additional.

Section 5. The recommended thresholds of significance are effective immediately upon adoption.

ON A MOTION by Director Hansen, seconded by Director Harris, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District on March 26, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: Carr, Frost, Guerra, Kennedy, Lampson, Ly, Nottoli and Terry.

Noes: Daniels and Gaylord.

Abstain:

Absent: Peters and Serna.

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District