Revisions to the GAMAQI
Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts

July 23, 2014

What is the GAMAQI?

• A guide for assessing and mitigating air quality impacts for projects under CEQA
• Uniform procedure for addressing air quality
• Tool for lead agencies, project proponents, consultants, and the public
  – Comprehensive
  – Useful
  – User friendly

Revisions

• First adopted 1998
• Revised 2002
• Workshop 2012
• Workshop July 2014
More User Friendly

- Document structure better follows in the tracks of the CEQA process, making it easier to understand and use
- New tools to assess project impacts on air quality
- New sections on air quality and District attainment status that can be easily used by Lead Agencies or consultants when preparing a CEQA document
- Outlines screening tools to identify small projects for which detailed analysis is not required (Small Project Analysis Levels – SPALs)

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- San Joaquin Valley air basin
- Air pollutants and attainment status
- Greenhouse gases
- Air pollutant emission sources
- Land use and air quality
- CEQA
- Assessing air quality impacts
- Mitigation Measures

Capture District Policies/Practices

- Incorporate currently used numerical thresholds of significance for PM_{10} and PM_{2.5}
- Guidance for evaluating construction emissions
- Guidance on when to conduct an Ambient Air Quality Analysis
- Reference District Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review)
- Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreements (VERAs)
- District CEQA policy on addressing greenhouse gases
Thresholds of Significance

• All thresholds consistent with existing practices and current GAMAQI
• Thresholds of Significance
  • Construction Emissions: Short Term
  • Operational Emissions (Permitted): Long Term, NSR
  • Operational Emissions (Non-Permitted): Long Term

Construction Impacts

• Compliance with Regulation VIII reduces impacts from fugitive dust during construction phases
• When determining significance of construction impacts, fugitive PM and exhaust PM emissions are combined
• Construction impacts would be significant if emissions would exceed any applicable thresholds of significance

Operation Impacts

• Permitted Sources & Activities
  • New Source Review
  • Mitigation required if emissions exceed offset thresholds
  • Offset thresholds same as thresholds of significance
  • Less than significant impact from criteria pollutants
• Non-permitted Sources & Activities
  • Include on-site and off-site mobile source
  • Significant if sum of emissions from non-permitted sources and activities exceed any applicable thresholds of significance
Ambient Air Quality Analysis

- Construction Emissions > 100 lb/day
- Operation Emissions (permitted) > 100 lb/day
- Operation Emissions (non-permitted) > 100 lb/day

- Screening Tool
  - Development projects below District Rule 9510 (ISR) applicability thresholds considered below the 100lb/day threshold

Comprehensive Tool

- More comprehensive tool to help lead agencies, project proponents, consultants, and the public analyze and address project air quality impacts under CEQA
- Improved legal defensibility of CEQA actions
- More responsive to the needs of San Joaquin Valley cities and counties acting as lead agencies under CEQA

District Tools/Resources

- [www.valleyair.org/ceqa](http://www.valleyair.org/ceqa)
  - District Policies
  - CEQA Guidance
  - Land Use Strategies
  - CEQA and Greenhouse Gas
  - OEHHA risk assessment methodologies
  - Small Project Analysis Levels (SPAL) values
  - Emission Assessment Models and Calculators
  - Environmental Review Guidelines
  - Air Quality Mitigation Strategies
  - And more…
Questions/Comments

- Webcast participants can email written questions/comments during the workshop session to WebCast@valleyair.org

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- Deadline: August 22, 2014

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