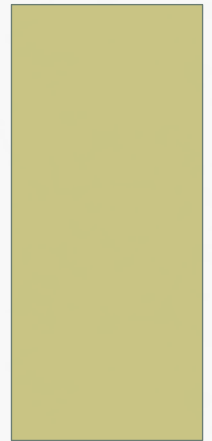


OVERVIEW OF CEQA SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS FOR GHG EMISSIONS & CLIMATE ADAPTATION CHAPTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC
SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE



OVERVIEW OF CEQA & GHG EMISSIONS

- GHG emissions are an environmental issue that requires analysis under CEQA (*CEQA Guideline § 15064.4 and Appendix G*)
- A metric for evaluating whether emissions from a proposed project will cross established quantitative or qualitative significance thresholds and contribute “significantly” to global emissions

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

- Assist City of San Diego staff, project applicants, & public in determining whether a project may have a significant impact on the environment with respect to GHG emissions
- Focused on a 2020 timeline
- Consistent with the legislative mandate established in AB 32

GHG SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

- **Bright Line Threshold** of 2,500 Metric Tons (MT) per year;
- **Efficiency Threshold** of 4.46 MT per year, per service population;
- **Performance Threshold** of 16 percent below unmitigated project emissions; and
- **Stationary Source Threshold** of 10,000 MT per year.

APPLICABILITY?

- Specifically designed to determine significance of different types of projects from GHG emissions
- An applicant may select the threshold that is most appropriate to their project type

BRIGHT LINE THRESHOLD

- *A proposed project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to climate change impacts if it would result in an increase of operational GHG emissions at a level exceeding 2,500 metric tons of CO₂e per year.*
- To provide further guidance for small projects to determine when they are below the Bright Line Threshold, the City developed screening criteria for various types of land use projects.

OTHER THRESHOLDS - ABOVE THE BRIGHT LINE THRESHOLD

- Efficiency Threshold – the rate of emission reductions needed to achieve a “fair share” of AB 32 reduction target
- Performance Threshold - unmitigated GHG emissions compared to GHG emission levels w/mitigation
- Stationary threshold - based on capturing at least 90% of the emissions from all new or modified stationary source projects

MITIGATION MEASURES

- CAPCOA Guide to Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures (2010)
- CAPCOA White Paper CEQA & Climate Change (2008)
- Attorney General of the State of California Guidance to the California Environmental Quality Act (2008)
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory – CEQA and Climate Change (2008)

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

- The City recognizes that climate adaptation is a core component of its overall response to the impacts of climate change.
- The City intends to develop a stand-alone Climate Adaptation Plan that will integrate and build upon the strategies and measures in the CAP.

ISSUE OF FUNDING

- Currently, the City does not have the necessary resources to develop an adequate plan that would fully assess the risks and vulnerabilities, develop adaptation strategies
- Aggressively pursuing additional funding from state (California Energy Commission), federal sources (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and a potential grant from the Rockefeller Foundation

ADAPTATION CHAPTER CONTENT

- Climate Impacts to San Diego
- Climate Adaptation Efforts:
 - Executive Order S-13-08
 - California Climate Change Center
 - California Climate Adaptation Strategy
 - The Adaptation Planning Guide
 - ICLEI, etc.
- Local Vulnerabilities

QUESTIONS?