



Update on State Efforts Related to CEQA GHG Significance Threshold Work

Climate Change Committee

January 16, 2009

CARB's Interim GHG Significance Threshold Proposal

Released a draft interim GHG significance threshold proposal 10/08
GHG thresholds for commercial/residential & industrial
Have had 2 workshops (10/27/08 & 12/9/08)
Revised draft proposal anticipated 1/30/09
3rd Workshop proposed for 2/9/09
To be considered by CARB Board in 2/2009?

OPR GHG Guidelines

Draft GHG CEQA Guidelines prepared pursuant to PRC §21083.05 & released 1/8/09
Comments are due to OPR by 1/26/09
Revised Guidelines due to the Resources Agency 7/1/09 for adoption no later than 1/1/10

Draft Guidelines are relatively general

OPR GHG Guidelines (cont'd)

- Draft Guidelines do not address:
 - GHG significance thresholds
 - OPR has asked CARB staff for recommendations on methodologies to establish GHG thresholds
 - Methodologies for quantifying GHG impacts
 - Specific measures to mitigate GHG impacts
- AQMD staff comments so far:
 - Encourage OPR to provide more detailed guidance on GHG mitigation
 - Clarify proposed §15126.4(c)(5) requirement for offsite offsets to "be part of a reasonable plan of mitigation..."

Proposed OPR GHG Guidelines

- New Section §15064.4 added regarding GHG significance
 - Requires analysis of GHGs
 - Consider extent project helps/hinders achieving AB32 goals
 - Analyze increased use of fossil & other fuels
 - Analyze increases in energy efficiency
 - Determine if GHG emissions exceed any applicable significance thresholds
 - Make a good faith effort to quantify GHG emissions, using a model or other methodology

Proposed OPR GHG Guidelines (cont'd)

- New subdivision (d) added to §15126.4 – Mitigation:
 - Agencies should consider all feasible measures to mitigate GHG emissions
 - GHG mitigation measures may include design features incorporated into the project
 - Mitigation may include compliance with an approved plan or mitigation program
 - Allows mitigation to include carbon sequestration & offsite mitigation, including carbon offsets

Proposed OPR GHG Guidelines (cont'd)

- Other changes made to incorporate concept of consistency with GHG reduction plans, regional transportation plans (SB 375), etc.
- Appendix G – Environmental Checklist modified
 - Loss of forests considered an impact
 - New GHG topic area incorporated to solicit information regarding potential GHG impacts from a project
