



Climate Change Committee Meeting

Greenhouse Gas CEQA
Significance Threshold
October 29, 2008

Overview

- Update on GHG Working Group (WG) Activities
 - ✓ Describe AQMD staff proposal
- Describe CARB staff interim proposal
- Key issues
- Next Steps

AQMD Staff Proposal

- Policy objectives
 - ✓ Establish interim significance threshold to capture 90% of GHG emissions
- Scope of GHG analysis
 - ✓ Analyze 6 Kyoto GHGs
 - ✓ Analyze direct, indirect, & life-cycle emissions (if information is available)
 - ✓ Construction GHG emission impacts to be amortized over a 30-year period
- Includes tiered approach with bifurcated screening levels

AQMD Staff Proposal

- Tier 1: if project is exempt from CEQA, no further action
 - ✓ Statutory exemptions
 - ✓ Categorical exemptions (if no unusual circumstances)
 - ✓ Exemptions under SB97
- Tier 2: project is NS if emissions are consistent with a GHG reduction plan (SB 375 approach)
 - ✓ Comply with the AB 32 Target Reductions
 - ✓ Have certified CEQA document
 - ✓ Have emissions Inventories approved by CARB or SCAQMD
 - ✓ Include tracking and enforcement with remedy to ensure target reductions are met

AQMD Staff Proposal (Cont.)

- Tier 3: bifurcated screening levels
 - ✓ 10,000 MTCO₂e/year for industrial projects
 - ✓ 3,000 MTCO₂e/year for residential/commercial projects
- Tier 4: Performance Standards (3 options)
 - ✓ 30% reduction from BAU
 - ✓ Early implementation of Scoping Plan measures
 - ✓ Achieve sector-based performance standards

AQMD Staff Proposal (Cont.)

- Tier 5: Offsite GHG mitigation
 - ✓ Implement offsite GHG mitigation projects; &/or
 - ✓ Purchase offsets
 - ✓ Must reduce GHG emissions to Tier 3 screening levels

CARB 's Interim GHG Significance Threshold Proposal

- CARB released its interim GHG ST proposal using a tiered structure at a workshop on 10/27/08 – 2 GHG STs
 - ✓ Industrial GHG ST: 3 boxes
 - Box 1: apply applicable exemptions; or
 - Box 2: a) must meet CARB-defined performance standards (PSs) for construction and transportation & b) must have GHG emissions < 7,000 MTCO₂e/yr (based on 90% capture rate for boilers): or
 - Box 3: projects that cannot meet PSs & are > 7,000 MTCO₂e/yr are presumed significant – an EIR must be prepared

CARB 's Interim GHG Significance Threshold Proposal (Cont.)

- CARB interim GHG ST proposal (cont.)
 - ✓ Residential/commercial GHG ST: 4 boxes
 - Box 1: Apply applicable exemptions; or
 - Box 2: Programmatic approach, i.e., project is consistent with a previously approved GHG reduction plan (SB 375 approach)
 - Box 3: project must meet PSs for energy efficiency & waste, transportation, water use and construction & project must be < "X" MTCO₂e/yr
 - Box 4: projects that cannot meet PSs & are > "X" MTCO₂e/yr are presumed significant – an EIR must be prepared
 - ✓ A 2nd workshop scheduled for December 2008
 - ✓ Considered by CARB board "early 2009"

Key Issues

- Interaction with cap-&-trade programs
- Relationship with SB 375
- Performance standards need to be defined
- Mitigation measures need to be developed
- Resource impacts (to AQMD)

Next Steps

- Further refine staff proposal
 - ✓ Input from WG members
 - ✓ Consider CARB proposal
- Take staff proposal to SCAQMD Governing Board in December (tentative)
 - ✓ Staff proposal is interim prior to adoption of statewide thresholds by CARB

Current Staff Proposal

Draft AQMD Staff CEQA Greenhouse Gas Significance Threshold

