

SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance Table

All Projects Subject to CEQA		
Construction Phase		Operational Phase
Mass Emission Thresholds		
NO _x (ozone precursor)	85 pounds/day	65 pounds/day
ROG (VOC) (ozone precursor)	NONE	65 pounds/day
PM ₁₀	Zero (0) . If all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied, then 80 pounds/day and 14.6 tons/year	Zero (0) . If all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied, then 80 pounds/day and 14.6 tons/year
PM _{2.5}	Zero (0) . If all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied, then 82 pounds/day and 15 tons/year	Zero (0) . If all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied, then 82 pounds/day and 15 tons/year
Concentration Thresholds (based on the California Ambient Air Quality Standard, identical threshold for both phases of development)		
CO	20 ppm 1-hour standard (23 mg/m ³); 9 ppm 8-hour standard (10 mg/m ³)	
NO ₂	0.18 ppm 1-hour standard (339 µg/m ³); 0.03 ppm Annual Arithmetic Mean (57 µg/m ³)	
SO ₂	0.25 ppm 1-hour standard (665 µg/m ³); 0.04 ppm 24-hour standard (105 µg/m ³)	
Lead	1.5 µg/m ³ 30-day average	
Visibility Reducing Particles	Extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer - visibility of ten miles or more due to particles when relative humidity is less than 70 percent	
Sulfates	25 µg/m ³ 24-hour standard	
H ₂ S	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³) 1-hour standard	
Vinyl Chloride	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³) 24-hour standard	

Land Development and Construction Projects		
Construction Phase		Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Thresholds		
GHG as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons/year	Demonstrate consistency with the Climate Change Scoping Plan by implementing applicable Best Management Practices (BMP), or equivalent on-site or off-site mitigation. All projects must implement tier 1 BMPs (BMP 1 & 2): <i>BMP 1</i> - projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure. <i>BMP 2</i> - projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier 2 standards, except all electric vehicle capable spaces shall instead be electric vehicle ready. Projects that exceed 1,100 metric tons/year after implementation of tier 1 BMPs must implement tier 2 BMPs (BMP 3): <i>BMP 3</i> - 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, and retail projects shall achieve a no net increase in total vehicle miles traveled to show consistency with SB 743.

Stationary Source Only		
Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) Thresholds		
Cancer Risk	An incremental increase in cancer risk greater than 10 in one million at any off-site receptor.	
Non-cancer (Hazard Index)	Ground-level concentration of project-generated TACs that would result in a Hazard Index greater than 1 at any off-site receptor.	

Construction Phase		Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Thresholds		
GHG as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons/year	10,000 metric tons/year

Notes:

The SMAQMD Board of Directors adopted air quality thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants on March 28, 2002, via resolution AQMD2002018.

A project is considered significant if emissions exceed a CAAQS or contribute substantially to an existing or projected violation of a CAAQS.

A substantial contribution is considered an emission that is equal to or greater than 5% of a CAAQS.

Revisions to the CAAQS are automatically adopted as revisions to these thresholds.

Official citation for the CAAQS: California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 70200, Table of Standards.

The TAC thresholds were developed as part of the SMAQMD's AB2588 program.

The SMAQMD Board of Directors has not established a threshold for mobile source or non-permitted sources of TAC, see Chapter 5.

The SMAQMD Board of Directors adopted GHG thresholds on October 23, 2014, via resolution AQMD2014-028

The SMAQMD Board of Directors rescinded the 2002 concentration based thresholds for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and adopted the new mass emissions

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} thresholds on May 28, 2015, via resolution AQMD2015-022. BACT is best available control technology and BMPs are best management practices.

The SMAQMD Board of Directors adopted an updated land development GHG threshold, including Best Management practices on April 23, 2020, via resolution 2020-009.