



CEQA Thresholds Implementation

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Background

Risk & Hazards Thresholds Approved May 2011

- Local governments are applying thresholds
- Continuing to provide resources and tools for applying thresholds
- Working with local planners and stakeholders address questions and issues





Background

Risk & Hazards Issues Heard to Date

- Screening tables are overly conservative
- Risk & hazard process could deter infill/affordable housing
- Challenging for construction projects to meet threshold
- Consider best management practices for construction emissions
- Need more useful construction screening process
- Need quantified mitigation measures to reduce impacts



Background

GHG Thresholds Approved June 2010

- GHG thresholds based on AB 32 and Scoping Plan – allows statewide consistency
- GHG thresholds options – land use projects
 - Plan based – consistency with GHG reduction strategy OR
 - “Bright line” – 1,100 metric tons/yr OR
 - Efficiency based – 4.6 tons/service population/yr (projects) and 6.6 tons/service population/yr (plans)



Bay Area Climate Action Planning

Current Status of CAP Development

End of 2009: 10 Climate Actions Plans (CAPs) adopted

Today: 26 CAPs adopted

18 CAPs in progress

100 Community GHG inventories

Additional jurisdictions incorporating climate protection into
general plans



“Qualified” GHG Reduction Strategies

How the “Qualified” GHG Threshold has influenced CAPs

- Breadth and technical rigor of CAPs are improving
- No longer visionary documents
- More consistent targets, focused on AB32
- GHG inventories include more emission sources
- More quantification of specific mitigation measures
- More mandatory measures are being included
- Environmental review is being done
- Integration with general plans



Climate Action Plan “Top 10” List

Top 10 Reasons Why CAPs Don’t Meet “Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy” Standards

10. Lack of transparency in quantification
9. Missing important emission sources
8. Focusing on new development
7. Letting the recession do the work
6. Letting the State do the work



Climate Action Plan “Top 10” List

Top 10 Reasons Why CAPs Don’t Meet “Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy” Standards

5. Including highly speculative reduction measures
4. Weak implementation strategy
3. Punting on VMT
2. Being “optimistic” about emission reductions
1. Not enough mandatory measures!

Next Steps

Next Steps: Opportunities for the District

- Continue developing quantification tools and protocols
- Work with other data providers (MTC, PG&E, ARB)
- Build knowledge of best practices
- Continue leadership role in region
- Ensure CEQA Guidelines are consistent with SB 375, SCS





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