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**MENDOCINO COUNTY  
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Date:** Thursday, June 03, 2010  
**From:** Christopher D. Brown AICP, Air Pollution Control Officer  
**To:** Planning Agencies and Planning Consultants  
**Subject:** New MCAQMD Interim CEQA Criteria and GHG Pollutant Thresholds

As you may be aware the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District has not adopted formal CEQA Thresholds in the past. The District has traditionally relied informally on the CEQA thresholds adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District with minor modifications reflecting location conditions.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Bay Area Air Quality Management District formally adopted new Criteria and GHG CEQA thresholds. These thresholds are available online at -  
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Planning-and-Research/CEQA-GUIDELINES.aspx>

For projects that begin the CEQA process after June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Mendocino County District is requesting that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA thresholds and CEQA guidelines be followed to evaluate air quality impacts.

The District may request additional evaluation during the CEQA process. The District may also request the use of different modeling software in some cases.

The odor significance findings used by the Bay Area AQMD do not conform to the District's enforcement policy for odor complaints. Please contact the District for an evaluation for odor significance from existing facilities.

Please see the District's website [www.mendoair.org/thresholds2010](http://www.mendoair.org/thresholds2010) for more information

Please contact the District at 707-463-4354 with any questions.

Attachments

**Proposed Air Quality CEQA Thresholds of Significance  
(May 3, 2010)**

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related	
<b>Project-Level</b>			
Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors (Regional)	Average Daily Emissions (lb/day)	Average Daily Emissions (lb/day)	Maximum Annual Emissions (tpy)
ROG	54	54	10
NO <sub>x</sub>	54	54	10
PM <sub>10</sub> (exhaust)	82	82	15
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (exhaust)	54	54	10
PM <sub>10</sub> /PM <sub>2.5</sub> (fugitive dust)	Best Management Practices	None	
Local CO	None	9.0 ppm (8-hour average), 20.0 ppm (1-hour average)	
<b>GHGs</b> Projects other than Stationary Sources	None	Compliance with Qualified Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy OR 1,100 MT of CO <sub>2</sub> e/yr OR 4.6 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e/SP/yr (residents + employees)	
<b>GHGs</b> Stationary Sources	None	10,000 MT/yr	
<b>Risks and Hazards – New Source</b> (Individual Project)	Same as Operational Thresholds*	Compliance with Qualified Community Risk Reduction Plan OR Increased cancer risk of >10.0 in a million Increased non-cancer risk of > 1.0 Hazard Index (Chronic or Acute) Ambient PM <sub>2.5</sub> increase: > 0.3 µg/m <sup>3</sup> annual average <u>Zone of Influence:</u> 1,000-foot radius from fence line of source or receptor	
<b>Risks and Hazards – New Receptor</b> (Individual Project)	Same as Operational Thresholds*	Compliance with Qualified Community Risk Reduction Plan OR Increased cancer risk of >10.0 in a million Increased non-cancer risk of > 1.0 Hazard Index (Chronic or Acute) Ambient PM <sub>2.5</sub> increase: > 0.3 µg/m <sup>3</sup> annual average <u>Zone of Influence:</u> 1,000-foot radius from fence line of source or receptor	
<b>Risks and Hazards – New Source</b> (Cumulative Thresholds)	Same as Operational Thresholds*	Compliance with Qualified Community Risk Reduction Plan OR Cancer: > 100 in a million (from all local sources) Non-cancer: > 10.0 Hazard Index (from all local sources) (Chronic) PM <sub>2.5</sub> : > 0.8 µg/m <sup>3</sup> annual average (from all local sources) <u>Zone of Influence:</u> 1,000-foot radius from fence line of source or receptor	

## Proposed Air Quality CEQA Thresholds of Significance (May 3, 2010)

Pollutant	Construction-Related	Operational-Related
<b>Risks and Hazards – New Receptor</b> (Cumulative Thresholds)	Same as Operational Thresholds*	<p>Compliance with Qualified Community Risk Reduction Plan OR</p> <p>Cancer: &gt; 100 in a million (from all local sources)</p> <p>Non-cancer: &gt; 10.0 Hazard Index (from all local sources) (Chronic)</p> <p>PM<sub>2.5</sub>: &gt; 0.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup> annual average (from all local sources)</p> <p><u>Zone of Influence</u>: 1,000-foot radius from fence line of source or receptor</p>
<b>Accidental Release of Acutely Hazardous Air Pollutants</b>	None	Storage or use of acutely hazardous materials locating near receptors or receptors locating near stored or used acutely hazardous materials considered significant
<b>Odors</b>	None	Complaint History—5 confirmed complaints per year averaged over three years
<b>Plan-Level</b>		
<b>Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors</b>	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistency with Current Air Quality Plan control measures</li> <li>Projected VMT or vehicle trip increase is less than or equal to projected population increase</li> </ol>
<b>GHGs</b>	None	<p>Compliance with Qualified Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy (or similar criteria included in a General Plan)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>6.6 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/ SP/yr (residents + employees)</p>
<b>Risks and Hazards</b>	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overlay zones around existing and planned sources of TACs (including adopted Risk Reduction Plan areas)</li> <li>Overlay zones of at least 500 feet (or Air District-approved modeled distance) from all freeways and high volume roadways</li> </ol>
<b>Odors</b>	None	Identify locations of odor sources in general plan
<b>Accidental Release of Acutely Hazardous Air Pollutants</b>	None	None
<b>Regional Plans (Transportation and Air Quality Plans)</b>		
<b>GHGs, Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors, and Toxic Air Contaminants</b>	None	No net increase in emissions

Notes: CO = carbon monoxide; CO<sub>2</sub>e = carbon dioxide equivalent; GHGs = greenhouse gases; lb/day = pounds per day; MT = metric tons; NO<sub>x</sub> = oxides of nitrogen; PM<sub>2.5</sub> = fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less; PM<sub>10</sub> = respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 10 micrometers or less; ppm = parts per million; ROG = reactive organic gases; SP = service population; tpy = tons per year; yr = year.

\* Note: The Air District recommends that for construction projects that are less than one year duration, Lead Agencies should annualize impacts over the scope of actual days that peak impacts are to occur, rather than the full year.