

**Resolution of the Air Pollution Control District Board of the
County of Santa Barbara, State of California**

In the Matter of Establishing a Threshold to)
Determine Significance of Impacts from)
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Revising the)
Environmental Review Guidelines for the)
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control)
District)

Resolution No. 15 - _____

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency amended the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (“*CEQA Guidelines*”) in 2009, requiring lead agencies to estimate a project’s greenhouse emissions, determine if the project’s emissions exceed a threshold, and determine if the project is consistent with a state, regional, or local greenhouse gas reduction plan; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) may act as a lead agency for projects subject to California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, the *CEQA Guidelines* encourage lead agencies to develop and publish thresholds of significance; and

WHEREAS, the District adopted in 1995 and revised in 2000 the *Environmental Review Guidelines for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District* (“*District CEQA Guidelines*”) to be used by District in implementing California Environmental Quality Act and to establish thresholds of significance; and

WHEREAS, the District has conducted four duly noticed public workshops, two public stakeholder meetings, briefed the Board of the District and received public comments during a duly noticed special meeting of the Board, received many public comments, and received recommendation from the District Community Advisory Council regarding establishment of a threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions and adoption of other revisions to the District CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, a 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (MTCO₂e/year) threshold captures a substantial majority of greenhouse gas emissions while not resulting in substantial administrative requirements for projects that individually produce only a small contribution towards cumulative statewide greenhouse emissions; and

WHEREAS, a 10,000 MTCO₂e/year “bright line” threshold is consistent with thresholds adopted by many other air Districts around California; and

WHEREAS, a 10,000 MTCO₂e/year threshold would mitigate sufficient emission increases from new sources to be consistent with statewide emission reduction targets for 2020 and would also contribute toward meeting statewide emission reduction targets for 2050; and

WHEREAS, a lower threshold would increase the administrative burden of the permitting process for smaller projects in Santa Barbara County without a proportional increase in the benefit toward achieving California's "fair-share" reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the *District CEQA Guidelines* also clarify administrative requirements and make minor corrections to the guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The attached California Environmental Quality Act Findings are hereby adopted as a finding of this Board pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.
3. In compliance with the *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15064.7 (Thresholds of Significance) the governing Board of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, following the required public hearing, approve and adopt a 10,000 MTCO₂e/year bright line threshold of significance.
4. The Board further adopts the other proposed revisions to the attached *District CEQA Guidelines*.

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County of Santa Barbara, State of California**

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Passed and Adopted by the Air Pollution Control District Board of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 2015 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

By _____
Chair

ATTEST:

LOUIS D. VAN MULLEM, JR.
Clerk of the Board

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
Santa Barbara County Counsel

By _____
Deputy