

**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 the 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**, the *CEQA Guidelines*, section 15064.4, state that a lead agency should, when assessing the significance of impacts from greenhouse gas emissions, consider the extent to which a project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, California Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 established a goal of an 80 percent reduction below 1990 emission levels by the year 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; and

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

2

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to AB 32 the California Air Resources Board was required to develop and adopt a *Climate Change Scoping Plan* for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2014 *Climate Change Scoping Plan* the California Air Resources Board has identified a 15.3 percent reduction from business as usual emissions as necessary to achieve the 2020 goals of AB 32; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 32 directs the California Air Resources Board to update the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gas emissions at least once every five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Air Resources Board cap-and-trade regulation is a state-wide greenhouse gas reduction plan which is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve the 2020 AB 32 goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed revisions to the *District CEQA Guidelines* establish a threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions that is consistent with the goals established by the most current *Climate Change Scoping Plan* and the California Air Resources Board cap-and-trade regulation; 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 California Environmental Quality Act Findings set forth in Attachment 2 of the Board Package dated April 30, 2015 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 Board, following the required public hearing, approves and adopts a threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions establishing a 10,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/year screening threshold, requiring a 15.3 percent reduction below business as usual from projects above the threshold, and recognizing the cap-and-trade regulation as a qualified greenhouse gas reduction plan.
4. The Board further adopts the other proposed revisions to the *District CEQA Guidelines* set forth in Attachment 4 of the Board Package; and
5. The Board commits to reviewing and revising the *District CEQA Guidelines* at least once every five years and more often if necessary to ensure they remain consistent with California's greenhouse gas reduction goals and subsequent updates to the California Air Resources Board *Climate Change Scoping Plan* and to AB 32.

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

3

**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