

League of women voters of Santa Barbara

May 6, 2014

Re: CEQA Thresholds for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara welcomes this opportunity to give input on a topic that is of great concern to many of us in the public. It certainly is time for the district to adopt a CEQA threshold for greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources. A formal threshold will add an element of certainty to the environmental analysis and this will benefit both applicants and lead agencies

The League considers climate change to be an extremely serious problem, one that needs to be attacked by all means possible. In this case a threshold of zero would be ideal. However we recognize that practical considerations may be raised and consequently we would accept a somewhat higher threshold, with the proposed 10,000 metric tons/year as an upper limit. The threshold should recognize emissions from all phases of a project as a single amount.

Almost every day we read of new evidence of the harm these greenhouse gases are inflicting on us today and even more will be suffered by future generations. The League urges you to adopt as low a threshold as feasible.

Susan Shank, co-President