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
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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 MTCO2e/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.
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