



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Land Use and CEQA Program

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Overview

- Background
- Our CEQA roles
- Interagency review
- CalEEMod
- Land use conflict
- Other air quality concerns
- CEQA resources



Image: Chathamhouse.org

Background

- CEQA (1970) requires public agencies to disclose a project's environmental impacts and mitigate any significant impacts
- We work with land use agencies to address air quality impacts of new development

Our CEQA Program Goals



Inform of regulatory requirements



Ensure air quality and GHG impacts are properly assessed



Advocate for mitigation of adverse impacts



Suggest measures to promote clean air

Our CEQA Roles

Lead Agency

Occurs When:

- The agency with principal responsibility for approval
- Prepare CEQA documents on internal activities (e.g. Ozone Plan, rules, issuance of District permits)

Duties:

Responsible Agency

- Another organization is Lead Agency and project will require District permit
- Review CEQA analysis to ensure adequacy for district permit issuance and lessen air quality impacts

Commenting Agency

- Another organization is Lead Agency, no District permit required
- Review CEQA analysis to ensure adequacy and lessen air quality impacts

Interagency Review



- We coordinate with land use agencies throughout their approval process to:
 - Review project applications
 - Assess air quality and greenhouse gas technical reports
 - Health risk assessments
 - Issue letters with comments and suggested conditions
 - Comment on public CEQA documents (MNDs, EIRs)
 - Address any concerns or questions
- We review over 100 land use projects annually
- Benefits to the land use agency and applicant

CalEEMod

- Quantifies emissions for a wide variety of project types
 - Calculates emission reductions from mitigation measures
- Our staff participates in CAPCOA Focus Group
 - Model overhauled in 2022 with many new features
- We review reports and provide guidance to Lead Agencies
- Available for free at www.caleemod.com



Emissions Modeling • Climate Resilience • Health & Equity



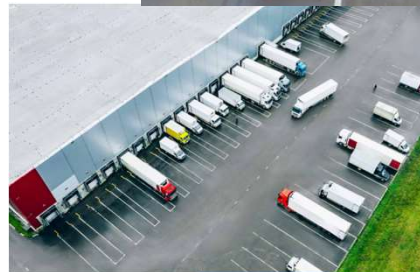
New Project

Upload Project

Land Use Conflicts

Common sources of air pollutants near sensitive receptors (e.g. residences, schools, hospitals) include:

- Highway 101
- Large diesel engines
- Facilities with heavy truck travel
- Gas stations
- Industrial operations
- Land uses that generate dust or odors



Land Use Conflicts

Tools to minimize impacts include:

- Setback recommendations
 - CARB's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook
 - Health risk assessments
- Project design features
- Measures to reduce emissions from equipment
- Odor abatement plans



Example health risk assessment results

Other Air Quality Concerns

Inaccurate
information in air
quality report

Exceedance of
CEQA
significance
thresholds

Adequacy of
mitigation

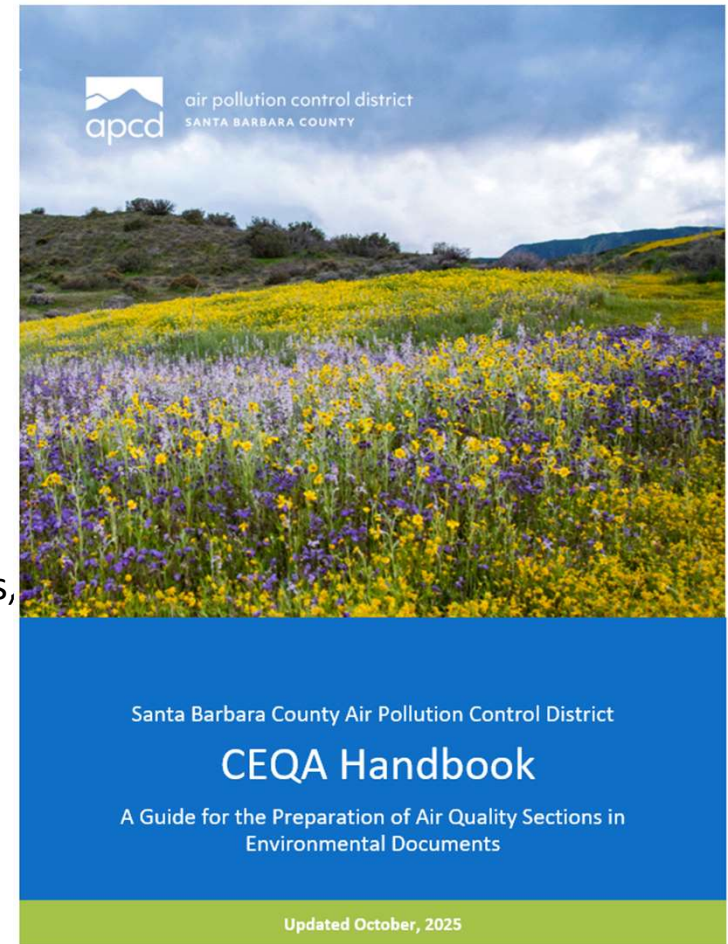
Construction
emission impacts

Inconsistency
with Ozone Plan

Potential to affect
attainment with
ambient air
quality standards

CEQA Resources

- Available at www.ourair.org/land-use/
- **Environmental Review Guidelines**
 - Our internal CEQA implementation procedures
- **CEQA Handbook – Updated October 2025**
 - Guidance on preparing air quality sections of CEQA documents
- **Quick Reference Guide**
 - Checklist of common incompleteness/inconsistency items, advisories, and best practices for new project applications
- **Standard Measures to Reduce Dust and Diesel Exhaust**
- **Calculator Tools**
 - Winery emissions
 - Peak day trip rate
- **Future Training Workshops**



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