

Greenhouse Gas CEQA
Significance Threshold
Stakeholder Working Group #8

January 28, 2009

SCAQMD

Diamond Bar, California

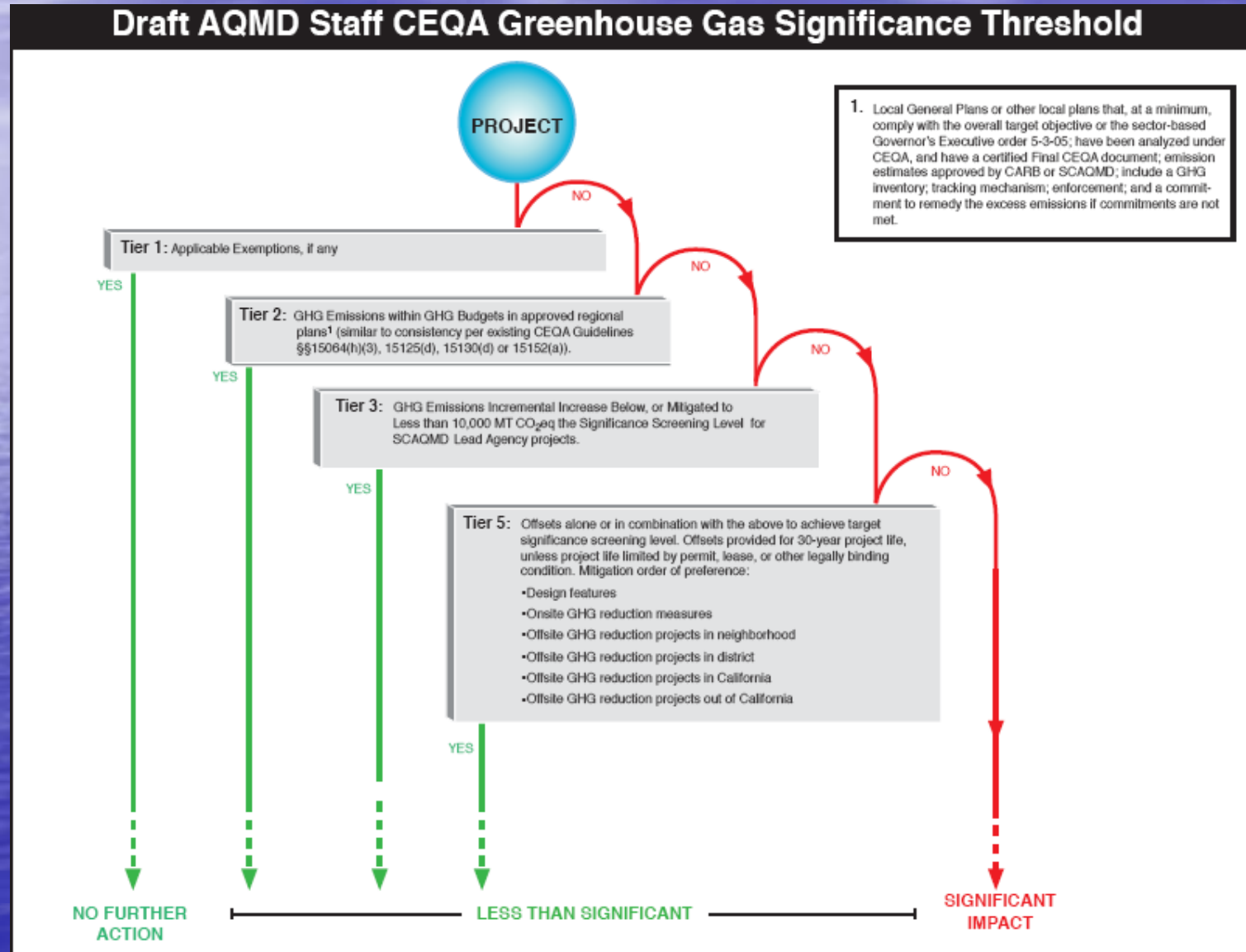
Agenda Item #2 – Staff's Interim GHG Proposal

- Adopted by the Governing Board 12/5/08
- Applicability – industrial (stationary source) projects
 - ✓ Only when AQMD assumes lead agency role
 - SCAQMD rules, regulations or Plans, e.g., AQMP
 - Discretionary permit projects where SCAQMD has primary approval authority
 - ✓ Not recommended for use by other agencies for land use projects (residential/commercial)
- Significance Determination
 - ✓ Tiered Approach

Staff's Interim GHG Proposal (Cont.)

- Determining significance using a tiered approach
 - ✓ Tier 1: Applicable CEQA Exemptions
 - E.g., SB 97, categorical & statutory exemptions
 - ✓ Tier 2: Consistent with GHG reduction plan (§§15064(h)(3), 15125(d), or 15152(a))
 - ✓ Tier 3: < or mitigated to < 10,000 MTCO₂eq/yr (only for industrial projects)
 - ✓ Tier 4: Not recommended at this time
 - ✓ Tier 5: Off-site mitigation for life of project (30 years)

Staff's Interim GHG Proposal (Cont.)



Staff's Interim GHG Proposal – Methodology

- Capture 90% of GHG emissions from district-wide new/modified stationary/industrial projects
 - ✓ Surveyed 1,297 existing facilities
 - ✓ Natural gas combustion sources
 - ✓ 10% of facilities responsible for ~ 90% of emissions emitting 10,000 mty or more of CO₂E
- Threshold applies to both emissions from construction and operational phases plus indirect emissions (electricity, water use, etc.)

Staff's Interim GHG Proposal – Resolution Language Mitigation Preference

- Real, Quantifiable, Verifiable, and Surplus
 - ✓ Project design feature/onsite reduction measures
 - ✓ Offsite within neighborhood
 - ✓ Offsite within district
 - ✓ Offsite within state
 - ✓ Offsite out of state
 - ✓ Substitution allowed via enforceable commitment
- Rationale
 - ✓ Maximize co-benefit potential
 - ✓ Maximize GHG emission reduction potential
 - ✓ Projected project emissions include indirect, offsite GHG emission sources

Staff's Interim GHG Proposal – Resolution Language Other Staff Recommendations

- Defer residential/commercial sector GHG proposal
- Participate in CARB process
- Continue to seek stakeholder input
- Report back to the Board in March on:
 - ✓ Status of CARB, CEC, & OPR proposals
 - CARB process delayed ~ 1 month
 - ✓ Residential & commercial sector GHG proposal
 - ✓ Other Enhancements

Staff's Interim GHG Proposal – Implementation & Future Activities

- Implementation of GHG significance threshold: upon adoption
- Future Activities
 - ✓ Report back in March on Tier 4 & recommendation for residential and commercial GHG significance thresholds, if not acted on by CARB board by February
 - ✓ Compile GHG emission factors and mitigation measures
 - ✓ Continue working group process in coordination with CARB effort

Agenda Item #3 – Land Use Definitions

- Stakeholders have requested definitions for land use projects including:
 - ✓ Industrial (primarily stationary sources)
 - ✓ Residential & Commercial
- Staff is recommending using land use definitions that are generally aligned with URBEMIS model land use definitions

Land Use Definitions (Cont.)

- Industrial:
 - ✓ Characterized by production, manufacturing or fabrication activities, e.g., manufacturing, light & heavy industry, etc., or;
 - ✓ Storage and distribution, e.g., warehouse, transfer facility, etc.

Land Use Definitions (Cont.)

- Residential:
 - ✓ An area of land lawfully used, designated in a plan development order, or other final development approval for residential purposes, e.g., single family housing, apartments, townhouses, mobile homes, etc.

Land Use Definitions (Cont.)

- Commercial:
 - ✓ A land use classification for the buying and selling of commodities & services, e.g., office park, medical office building, civic center, general office building, etc.
 - ✓ Includes retail – land use for selling goods or merchandise to the ultimate consumer, e.g., discount store, supermarket, service station, hardware store, etc.
 - ✓ For classification purposes, the following land uses are also defined as commercial: education/institution, recreation, etc.

Agenda Item #4 – Work Plans to Address Technical Issues

- Future stakeholder working group meetings will also include developing work plans for:
 - ✓ Calculation/inventory development methodologies
 - ✓ Mitigation measures
 - ✓ Others?
- Staff is requesting input on work plans

Work Plans to Address Technical Issues (Cont.)

- Calculation/inventory development
- Compilation of emission factors
 - ✓ Stationary sources
 - ✓ Mobile (off-road & on-road) sources
 - ✓ Electricity by utility service territory
 - ✓ Life cycle emissions, if available
- Provide links to resources or consolidate lists into a single location online?

Work Plans to Address Technical Issues (Cont.)

- Mitigation measures – use a format consistent with current practice
- Potential categorization – stationary sources
 - ✓ Fuel combustion
 - Low carbon fuels
 - Renewable fuels, e.g., landfill gas
 - Carbon sequestration

Work Plans to Address Technical Issues (Cont.)

- Potential categorization – stationary sources (cont.)
 - ✓ Energy savings
 - Conservation
 - Increased efficiency
 - Load shifting
- Transportation/mobile strategies
 - ✓ VMT reductions
 - ✓ Low carbon fuels
 - ✓ Others?

Agenda Item #5 – Future URBEMIS Upgrades

- An upgrade to the URBEMIS model to better address GHG emissions is currently under consideration
- Concepts currently under consideration
 - ✓ Create a more robust GHG analysis module
 - ✓ Incorporate GHGs in addition to CO₂, e.g., N₂O & CH₄, where EFs are available
 - ✓ Add module to calculate GHG emissions from electricity production

Future URBEMIS Upgrades (Cont.)

- Concepts currently under consideration (cont.)
 - ✓ Enhance URBEMIS reports to include daily/annual GHG emissions
 - ✓ Enhance URBEMIS reports to show CO₂, N₂O, CH₄ & CO₂eq. Emissions
- Other suggestions?

Agenda Items #6, #7, & #8

- Other topics?
- Closing remarks
- Other business
- Next meeting scheduled for 2/25/09,
10:00 a.m.