


NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

TO: Solano County Clerk
Attn: Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

FROM: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

APR 21 2022

Bill Emlen, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of
the County of Solano,
State of California
Deputy 

Project Applicant: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Lead Agency: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Contact: Wendy Goodfriend Phone: (415) 749-4641

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 21152 OF THE PUBLIC
RESOURCES CODE AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15061(b)(3)

Project Title: CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts From Land Use
Projects and Plans

Project Location: The CEQA Thresholds of Significance are advisory to local agencies within the Bay
Area Air Quality Management District (District), which includes all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa,
San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, and the southern portions of Solano and Sonoma
counties.

Project Description: The District has updated the CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of
Climate Impacts From Land Use Projects and Plans (Climate Impact Thresholds) and provided an
associated Justification Report. The Climate Impact Thresholds are advisory in nature, and intended to
assist cities, counties, and other lead agencies in analyzing and reducing climate impacts of local projects
and plans subject to CEQA review. The Climate Impact Thresholds provide lead agencies with
recommended benchmarks for determining whether a project or plan's GHG emissions rise to a level of
significance. The *Justification Report: CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts
from Land Use Projects and Plans (Justification Report)* provides the rationale and substantial evidence
supporting the updated thresholds of significance.

The update was responsive to the substantive changes that have occurred with respect to the data and
assumptions underlying the analytical methodologies, thresholds, and guidance since the District's last
thresholds of significance update in June 2010. Accordingly, the updated thresholds of significance reflect
current State legislation, policy guidance and GHG reduction targets, new and revised requirements in the
State CEQA Guidelines, case law, improved analytical methodologies, and updated GHG reduction
strategies and technologies.

The *Justification Report* explains and supports the recommended thresholds and provides the substantial
evidence to support adoption of these thresholds by the Board of Directors, as well as the substantial
evidence needed by lead agencies that choose to use these thresholds to make significance
determinations. The District held numerous focus groups with local government planning staff, builders,
affordable housing developers, environmental advocates and community organizations in the fall of 2021;
convened two public workshops, one in December 2021 and one in March 2022; held a 30-day public
comment period from February 16 to March 18, 2022; and presented the initial concepts and final proposed
thresholds of significance to the Mobile Source and Climate Impacts Committee of the Board of Directors
on September 23, 2021 and March 24, 2022.

On April 20, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District conducted a
public hearing as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7; approved the Climate Impact Thresholds;
and determined that the thresholds are not subject to CEQA.

Finding of Exemption: The Climate Impact Thresholds do not constitute a project under CEQA pursuant
to Public Resources Code, Section 21065. Moreover, they will have no significant effect on the environment
and thus are not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3).

Basis for Exemption: The District complied with Section 15064.7 in establishing the Climate Impact
Thresholds. Section 15064.7 establishes the required procedure for enacting generally applicable

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thresholds of significance such as the Climate Impact Thresholds. CEQA review of such thresholds is not required. Further, the Climate Impact Thresholds are advisory only, administrative in nature, do not affect air emissions from any sources, and will not cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Any potential impact would be speculative. Therefore, they have no possibility of causing significant environmental effects. As such, they are not subject to CEQA review.

Date Received for Filing

Wendy Goodfriend 4/20/22

Wendy Goodfriend Date
Air Quality Planning Manager
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

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4/21/22
Deputy Clerk of the Board