

5. Operational Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants

Air pollutant emissions from urban development can derive from a variety of sources, including motor vehicles, wood burning appliances, natural gas and electric energy use, combustion-powered utility equipment, paints and solvents, and equipment or operations used by various commercial and industrial facilities.

The evaluation of a project's emissions of ozone precursors (NO_x and ROG) and PM₁₀ pertains to the following questions regarding air quality from the Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix D of this document) of the State CEQA Guidelines:

- III.a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- III.b. Would the project violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?
- III.c. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

The District has prepared a screening table of project types not expected to exceed the significance thresholds. For projects that exceed the screening tables, or do not fit into the given land use categories, emissions should be calculated using a District approved model. The District approved model at the time these Guidelines have been adopted is the URBEMIS model. The most recent version, available free to download at:

<http://www.urbemis.com/software/download.html>. Additional models may be available and lead agencies should contact the District for more information.

Land use projects that exceed the size listed in the screening table should perform a project specific air quality analysis using URBEMIS, and incorporate Best Available Mitigation Measures (BAMM) (Appendix C) to reduce the impact to a less than significant level. If the project is successful at mitigating to below the thresholds, then the lead agency may prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) which contains all mitigation measures along with applicable scheduled implementation.

If the project cannot mitigate below the thresholds, then an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared which includes all feasible mitigation measures. The District is available to assist the lead agency as to the feasibility of measures. The District recommends at least 15% reduction in emissions from feasible mitigation measures. The BAMM assigns point values to each measure, whereas 1 point equates to 1% reduction in emissions.

To expedite the environmental review process, the District has calculated the size of various land use projects that are estimated to exceed the thresholds of significance. Table 5-1 is provided to assist lead agencies in determining significance, and should only be used for screening purposes.

assist lead agencies in determining significance, and should only be used for screening purposes. Projects that do not fit into one of the listed land use categories, are mixed use projects, or have exceptional circumstances should not use Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Screening Criteria for Operational Air Quality Impacts

URBEMIS 9.2.4 Land Use Categories	Project Size Greater than Significant Threshold Emissions lbs/day	Units
Residential		
Single Family Homes	130	Dwelling Units
Apartments, Low Rise	160	Dwelling Units
Commercial		
Bank, With Drive Thru	7	1,000 sq. ft.
General Office Building	130	1,000 sq. ft.
Medical Office Building	50	1,000 sq. ft.
Educational		
Day Care Center	20	1,000 sq. ft.
Elementary School	115	1,000 sq. ft.
Junior High School	115	1,000 sq. ft.
High School	115	1,000 sq. ft.
Junior College	65	1,000 sq. ft.
Place of Worship	125	1,000 sq. ft.
Recreational		
City Park	800	Acres
Racquet/Health Club	55	1,000 sq. ft.
Fast Food Restaurant w/drive thru	2	1,000 sq. ft.
Fast Food Restaurant w/out drive thru	3	1,000 sq. ft.
High turnover (sit-down) Restaurant	13	1,000 sq. ft.
Quality Restaurant	20	1,000 sq. ft.
Motel	275	Rooms
Large Retail		
Home Improvement Superstore	60	1,000 sq. ft.
Regional Shopping Center	40	1,000 sq. ft.
Free-Standing Discount Store	30	1,000 sq. ft.
Retail		
Strip Mall	40	1,000 sq. ft.
Supermarket	17	1,000 sq. ft.
Convenience Market (w/out gas pumps)	2	1,000 sq. ft.
Gasoline/Service Station	12	Pumps
Industrial		
Warehouse	350	1,000 sq. ft.
General Light Industry	225	1,000 sq. ft.
General Heavy Industry	600	1,000 sq. ft.
Industrial Park	250	1,000 sq. ft.
Manufacturing	400	1,000 sq. ft.

URBEMIS 9.2.4 emissions from area and operational sources with no mitigation selected. Feather River Air Quality Management District settings, 0% hearth fireplaces and 0% wood stoves. On road emissions based on Emfac2007 V2.3.