

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology

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PREFACE

In accordance with Governing Board direction, SCAQMD staff has developed this methodology to assist lead agencies in analyzing localized air quality impacts from proposed project. This methodology is guidance and is **VOLUNTARY**. Localized significance threshold (LST) look-up tables for one, two and five acre proposed projects emitting carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}) or particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀) were prepared for easy reference according to source receptor area. SCAQMD recommends that lead agencies perform project-specific modeling for larger projects in determining localized air quality impacts.

The LST methodology was developed to be used as a tool to assist lead agencies to analyze localized impacts associated with project-specific level proposed projects. The LST methodology and associated mass rates are not designed to evaluate localized impacts from mobile sources traveling over the roadways. Further, LSTs are applicable to projects at the project-specific level and are not applicable regional projects such as General Plans. The LST methodology and associated mass rate look-up tables will be included as an update to the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook upon Governing Board's approval.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Final Significance Threshold Methodology, SCAQMD Governing Board adopted significant thresholds for PM_{2.5}; the California Air Resources Board (ARB) revised the 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) Ambient Air Quality Standard (AAQS) from 0.25 ppm to 0.18 ppm, and established a new annual average standard of 0.03 ppm. The Final Significance Threshold Methodology was revised in July of 2008 to include the PM_{2.5} significant threshold methodology and update the LST Mass Rate Look-up Tables for the 1-hour NO₂ AAQS.

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