

3. Air Quality

Overview

This section specifies significance thresholds for air quality impacts, including emission limits on reactive organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen, cumulative increases in criteria pollutants, and exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants such as, but not limited to, toxic air contaminants, dust, and odors. It also provides guidelines for mitigating construction-related dust and emissions, managing carbon monoxide hotspots, and addressing odor impacts.

This topic section is updated from **Section 1, Air Quality** in the existing ISAGs.

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) were updated accordingly to better align with the following updated thresholds.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

AIR-1 Exceed 2 pounds per day or greater for reactive organic compounds or oxides of nitrogen, as described in the Air Quality Assessment Guidelines, and cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan.

AIR-2 Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a *criteria pollutant* for which the region is in non-attainment of the applicable federal or state standard.

AIR-3 Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations such as, but not limited to, toxic air contaminants, dust, and odors.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

 Derived from Appendix G of CEQA

 Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Air Quality Assessment Guidelines
- Air Quality Management Plan
- Criteria pollutants
- Mobile source
- Nonattainment area
- Oxides of nitrogen
- Ozone
- Ozone precursors
- Particulate matter
- Reactive organic compounds
- Sensitive receptors
- Stationary sources
- Toxic air contaminant