

CHAPTER 4.0

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Introduction

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The CEQA Guidelines require EIRs to identify significant environmental effects that may result from a proposed project [CEQA Guidelines §15126.2 (a)]. Direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the environment should be identified and described, with consideration given to both short- and long-term impacts. The discussion of environmental impacts may include, but is not limited to, the resources involved; physical changes; alterations of ecological systems; health and safety impacts caused by physical changes; and other aspects of the resource base, including water quality, public services, etc. If significant adverse environmental impacts are identified, the CEQA Guidelines require a discussion of measures that could either avoid or substantially reduce any adverse environmental impacts to the greatest extent feasible (CEQA Guidelines §15126.4).

The CEQA Guidelines indicate that the degree of specificity required in a CEQA document depends on the type of project being proposed (CEQA Guidelines §15146). The detail of the environmental analysis for certain types of projects cannot be as great as for others. For example, the EIR for projects, such as the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive zoning ordinance or a local general plan, should focus on the secondary effects that can be expected to follow from the adoption or amendment, but the analysis need not be as detailed as the analysis of the specific construction projects that might follow. As a result, this Program EIR analyzes impacts on a regional level, impacts on the subregional level, and impacts on the level of individual projects or individual facilities only where feasible.

Chapter 4 analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the 2012 AQMP. The primary purpose of the 2012 AQMP is for the [SCAQMD District](#) to demonstrate compliance with the federal 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard. As shown in Table 2-3, the [2012 AQMP](#) includes the following short-term PM_{2.5} Control Measures emissions: CMB-01, BCM-01, BCM-02, BCM-03, BCM-04, IND-01, EDU-01, and MCS-01. The 2012 AQMP also provides an update to the Basin's projections in making expeditious progress in attaining the federal 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards. As shown in Table 2-3, the following control measures (referred to as [CAA](#) Section 182 (e)(5) implementation measures) are proposed to demonstrate expeditious progress in attaining ozone standards: CTS-01, CTS-02, CTS-03, CTS-04, CMB-02, CMB-03, FUG-01, FUG-02, FUG-03, MSC-01, MCS-02, MCS-03, INC-01, INC-02, EDU-01, ONRD-01, ONRD-02, ONRD-03, ONRD-04, ONRD-05, OFFRD-01, OFFRD-02, OFFRD-03, OFFRD-04, OFFRD-05, ADV-01, ADV-02, ADV-03, ADV-04, ADV-05, ADV-06, and ADV-07.

This chapter is subdivided into the following sections based on the area of potential impacts: aesthetics, air quality, energy, hazards, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, traffic and transportation, and solid and hazardous waste. Included for each impact category is a discussion of project-specific impacts, project-specific mitigation (if necessary and available), remaining impacts, and a summary of impacts for each resource. Also, included within each resource evaluation is a summary of impacts that would be expected for the short-term PM_{2.5} Control Measures and a summary of impacts for the ozone Control Measures.

In order to address the full range of potential environmental impacts several assumptions were made for purposes of evaluation. First, to provide a “worst-case” analysis, the environmental analysis contained herein assumes that the control measures contained in the AQMP apply to the entire district (e.g., the Basin and those portions of the MDAB and SSAB under the SCAQMD’s jurisdiction). If control equipment which has secondary adverse environmental impacts could be used to comply with a particular control measure, it was assumed that such equipment would be used even if it may not be the most appropriate technology or method of compliance. For example, the analysis assumes that all vehicles in ONRD-01 were assumed to be electrified in the analysis of energy impacts. However, they were also included in the analysis of alternative fuels, as alternative fuels (e.g., natural gas) could also be used to implement ONRD-01. This approach was taken for each environmental topic. In practice, there are typically a number of ways to comply with requirements of SCAQMD rules, but only one type of compliance option will actually be implemented. This approach has the potential to substantially overestimate impacts because only a single type of control equipment will be used.

Every control measure in the 2012 AQMP was evaluated to determine whether or not it has the potential to generate adverse environmental impacts. Each environmental topic subchapter in Chapter 4 contains a table identifying those control measures that have the potential to generate significant adverse impacts to that environmental topic. Table 4.0-1 lists the various control measures, which were evaluated and determined not to have significant adverse impacts on the environment and, therefore, were not evaluated further.

TABLE 4.0-1**Control Measures With No Expected Impacts**

Control Measures	Control Measure Title (Pollutant)	Control Methodology	Reason Not Significant
BCM-01	Further Reductions from Residential Wood Burning Devices	The current mandatory wood burning curtailment threshold would be lowered, resulting in increased days when wood burning would be prohibited.	Increase in no burn days, no physical modifications.
BCM-02	Further Reductions from Open Burning	Prohibit open burning whenever PM _{2.5} concentrations are expected to exceed specific concentrations.	Increase in no burn days, no physical modifications.
FUG-03	Further VOC Reductions from Fugitive VOC Emissions	Require at least a self-inspection program and/or optical gas imaging-assisted leak detection and repair program and explore the use of new technologies to detect and verify VOC fugitive emissions.	Increased Inspection and monitoring.
EDU-01	Further Criteria Pollutant Reductions from Education, Outreach and Incentives	Voluntary program that provides outreach to consumers, business owners and residences on clean air practices.	Education

There are several reasons why the control measures in Table 4.0-1 are not expected to generate significant adverse impacts. First, the primary control methods of compliance do not involve control equipment that would generate any adverse secondary or cross media impacts. For example, BCM-01 and BCM-02 would limit wood burning and open burning activities during days when PM_{2.5} concentrations exceed specific thresholds. Since the

burning would likely be shifted to other days, no physical impacts are expected to occur. FUG-03 would largely control VOC emissions through enhanced inspection and maintenance practices to reduce fugitive emissions from material transfer, storage, and processing. Inspection and maintenance practices are not expected to generate secondary impacts because these are procedures to ensure proper operation of equipment. Finally, EDU-01 involves outreach and education so that consumers can make informed choices in purchases, conducting efficiency upgrades, installing clean energy sources, and approaches to energy conservation. EDU-01 is a voluntary measure that would educate the public in general. Any impacts are expected to be positive in terms of changing behavior, but are not expected to result in physical, adverse impacts.

In addition, one control measures proposed in the 2012 AQMP for which there is insufficient information regarding compliance options or how they would be implemented to determine the potential impacts (see Table 4.0-2). OFFRD-05 would impose fees but does not indicate how the fees would be used. The fees could be used for educational purposes or purchasing control equipment. Because the control measure is general in nature, it is difficult to determine what, if any, impacts could be expected from this control measure. Therefore, the impacts of OFFRD-05 would be considered speculative and no further environmental analysis is required (CEQA Guidelines §15145).

TABLE 4.0-2

Control Measures Whose Impacts Are Speculative

Control Measures	Control Measure Title (Pollutant)	Control Methodology	Reason Not Significant
OFFRD-05	Emission Reductions from Ocean-Going Marine Vessels	Would enhance Ports' existing financial incentive programs for early deployment of Tier 3 vessels calling at the Ports.	Economic Incentives