

August 3, 2012  
For Immediate Release

## NEWS RELEASE

### DRAFT CEQA AIR QUALITY HANDBOOK

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District (District) is soliciting comment and feedback on our draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook (Handbook). The purpose of this Handbook is to describe the District's existing CEQA review program related to the processing of environmental documents associated with land use projects in Placer County. The Handbook includes criteria used by the District to determine when an air quality analysis should be prepared, the type of analysis which should be performed, and suggested mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts. The Handbook does not propose any "new" standards, thresholds, or requirements, but rather uses the existing criteria and recommended CEQA thresholds as directed by the Board of Directors as the basis for reviewing land use related air quality impacts.

The main intent of the Handbook is to provide environmental consultants and planners with assessment strategies, tools, and step-by-step procedures for providing a thorough environmental impact analysis of air quality issues, while maintaining a "user friendly" approach to addressing air quality impacts associated with land use projects. With this document, the District also strives to simplify and streamline the process of evaluating and mitigating air quality impacts from new development. Helpful navigation links are located throughout the document that not only allow the reader to navigate throughout the Handbook, but also includes "hyper-links" to invaluable websites such as EPA, CARB, CAPCOA, CalEEMod, and many others.

Major components of this Handbook were discussed at the December 2008, meeting of the PCAPCD Board of Directors. This Handbook has specifically been developed to fulfill our Board's direction to prepare a handbook that can serve as an advisory tool for the review of land use projects subject to CEQA.

The final draft of the Handbook can be downloaded from the PCAPCD website: (<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air.aspx>).

An "Introduction to the PCAPCD CEQA Handbook" public presentation is scheduled in Auburn, CA on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. More information regarding the presentation can be found at the PCAPCD website. Please note that this presentation is intended as informational discussion to seek comment directly related to the Handbook for District staff. The Board will likely review the document at a later date. We value and appreciate your input. Please review the Handbook and return any comments, suggestions, etc. **no later than Friday, September 14, 2012.** If you have additional questions please feel free to contact the PCAPCD staff.