

Measuring Transportation Impacts

California Transportation Commission Presentation - April 2025



CEQA Transportation and Fed/State Air Processes

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Overview

- CEQA Transportation Impacts
 - Background
 - Process
- Air Quality Impact Analysis

SB 743 Background

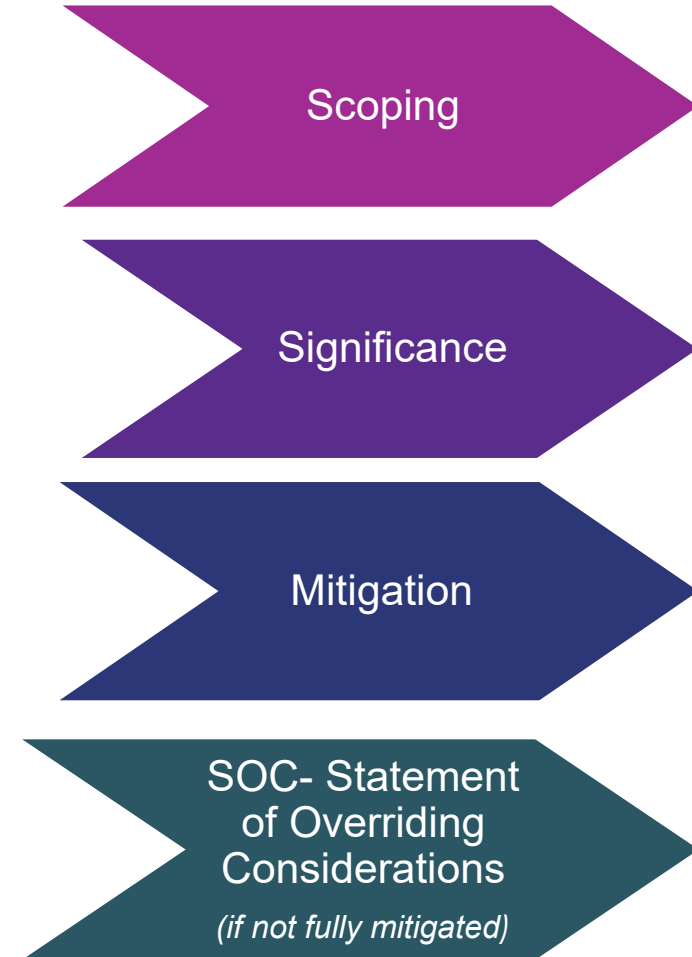
- Legislation Details:
 - Senate Bill 743 (Steinberg, 2013)
 - Public Resources Code § 21099
 - LCI Guidelines (Dec 2018)
 - California Code of Regulations § 15064.3
- Caltrans Issued Policy and Guidance (2020)
 - [Transportation Analysis Framework \(TAF\)](#)
 - [Transportation Analysis under CEQA \(TAC\)](#)



SB 743 Review Process

Process Steps:

- Project Initiation Document
 - Risk assessment
- Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED)
 - Induced travel analysis methodology and results study/memo
 - Mitigation Plan
 - Risk assessment for projects featuring alternatives with unmitigated VMT
 - Draft Environmental Document (ED)
 - Final ED with “draft SOC and Findings”
 - SOC Decision Package



Project Types Affected

- ***Project Types Likely to Lead to a Measurable and Substantial Increase in Vehicle Travel***
 - Adding capacity to the State Highway System through construction of new or expansion of existing facilities
- ***Project Types Not Likely to Lead to a Measurable and Substantial Increase in Vehicle Travel***
 - Rehabilitation, maintenance, replacement, safety & repair projects designed to improve the condition of existing assets
 - Over 30 project types.

Analysis Selection Flow Chart

- Potential Assessment Methods Include:
 - Travel Demand Models (TDMs), NCST Calculator, Qualitative, Quantitative Methods
- Key Questions
 - NCST Applicability
 - TDM Availability and Adequacy

Handout #1

Transportation Analysis Framework

First Edition September 2020

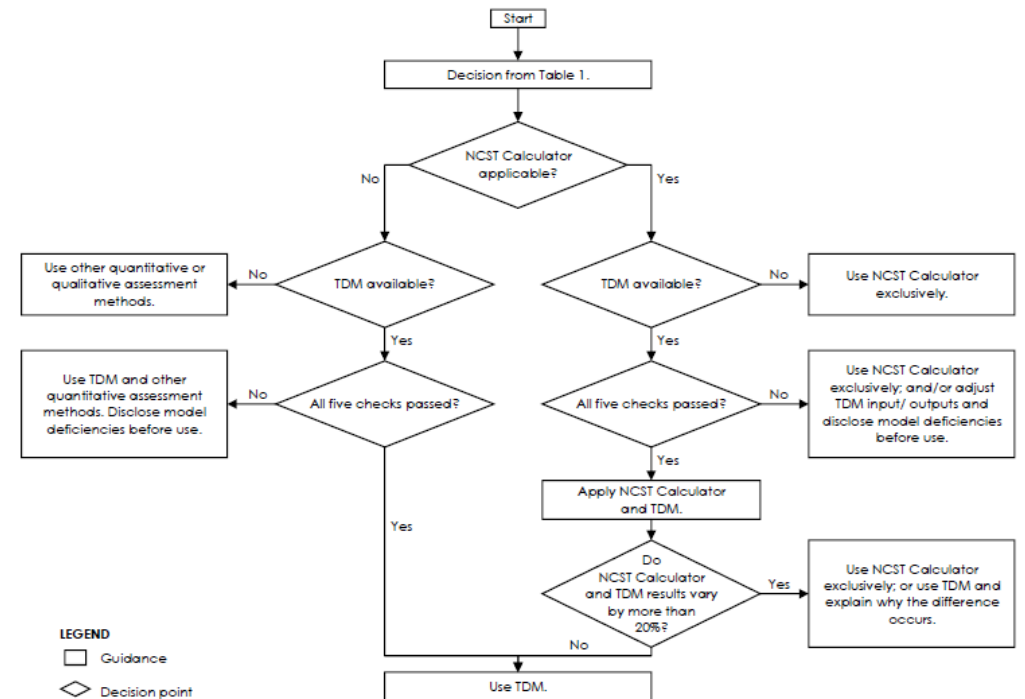
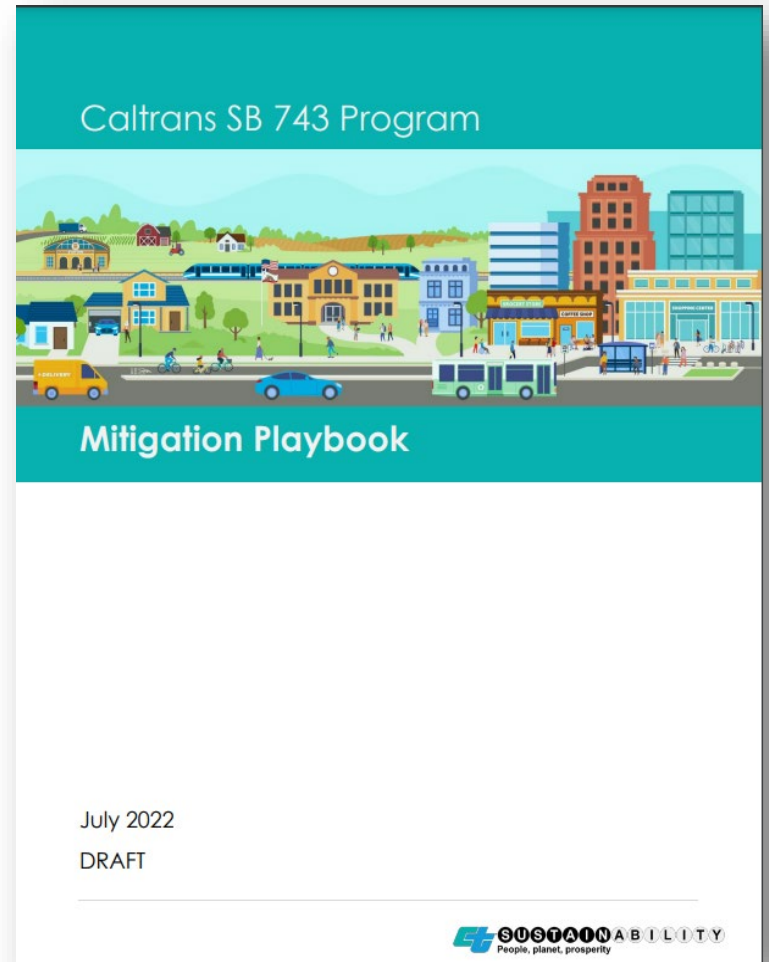


Figure 5. A detailed assessment method selection flow chart.

Significance and Mitigation

- Measurable and Substantial impacts are Significant
- Mitigation is required to try to reduce VMT impacts to less than significant under CEQA.
- If can't fully mitigate, then must do an SOC which requires Director's approval.



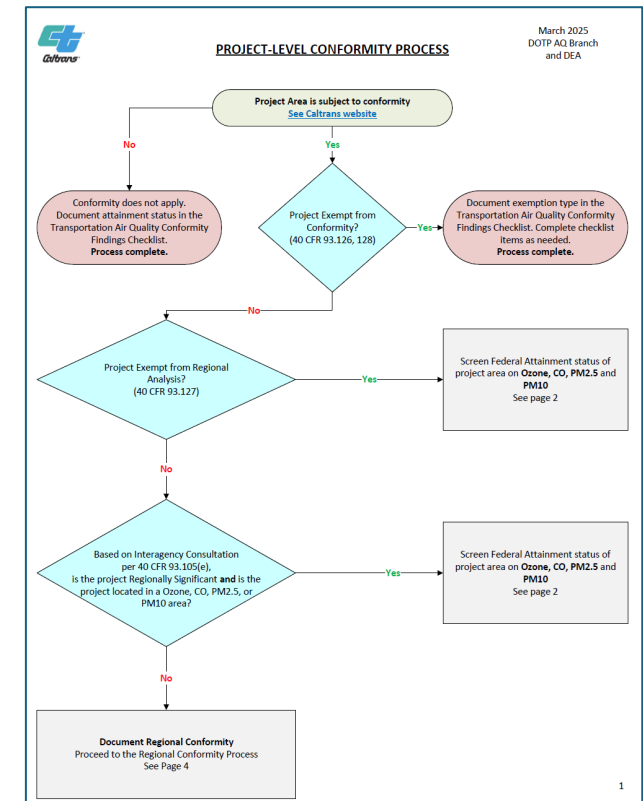
Air Quality – Requirements

- The primary laws related to air quality issues are:
 - Federal and California Clean Air Acts
 - US EPA conformity regulations
 - Local and Air District Ordinances related to specific activities
 - Air Quality is a required subject for the environmental analysis per NEPA and CEQA
- These laws and regulations are to protect human health by reducing and controlling air pollution, both stationary (i.e., factories) and mobile sources (i.e., vehicles)
- For transportation, the goal is to protect near-road communities.

Project-Level Air Quality Analysis

- Project Level Air Analysis Steps
 - Traffic analysis (detailed speed and volume data)
 - Emission estimates using CT-EMFAC
 - POAQC Determination
 - Dispersion Analysis Using AERMOD and/or CALINE 4
 - Document in Air Quality Report and NEPA/CEQA documents
 - Conformity Determination from FHWA

Handout #2



Project-Level Air Quality Analysis

