



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

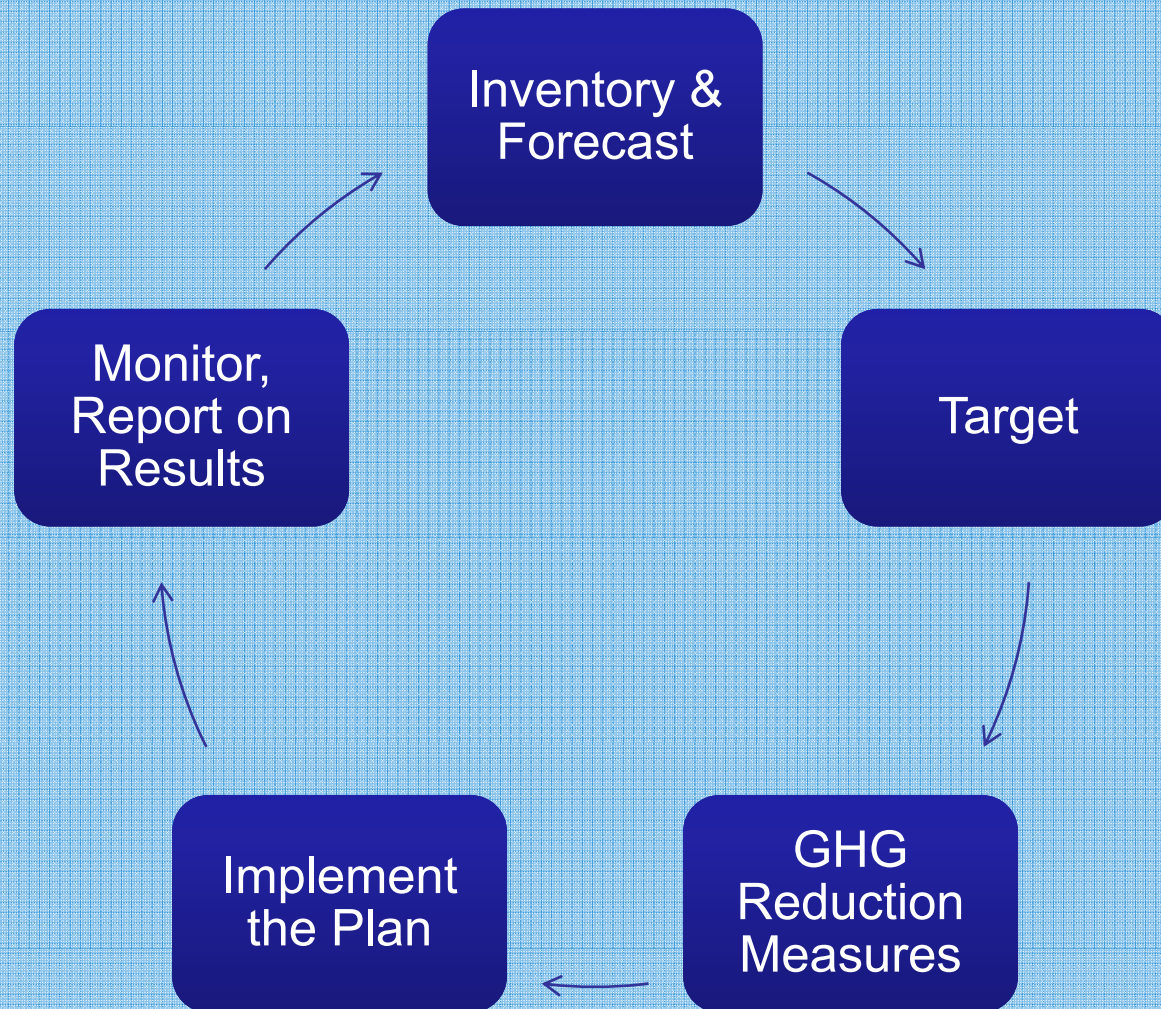
Next Generation Climate Action Plans – Are They Ready for CEQA Compliance?

**AWMA Conference
November 16, 2011**

Abby Young
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Where we've been

Traditional Climate Action Planning Process



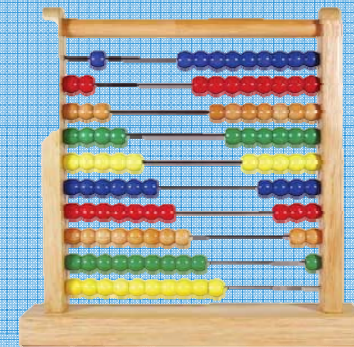
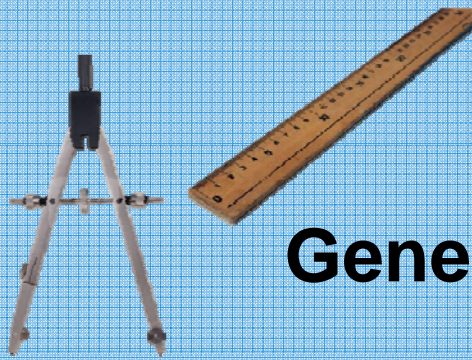
Traditional Climate Action Plans

1993 – 2008

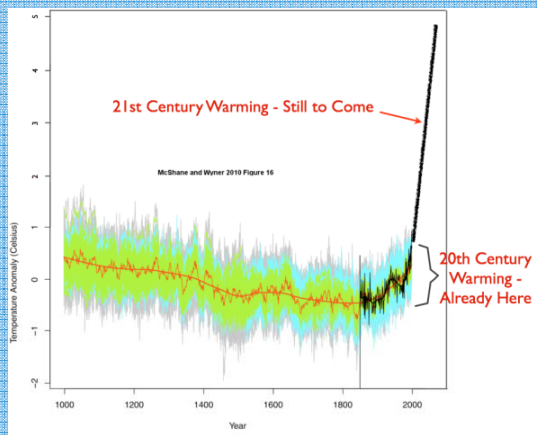
Good	Less Good
Aggressive targets (20% below 1990 by 2010)	Lack of technical rigor
	Reliance on voluntary actions
	No authority

Early GHG Quantification

1993 – 2008



Generalized tools



Trends vs. Accuracy

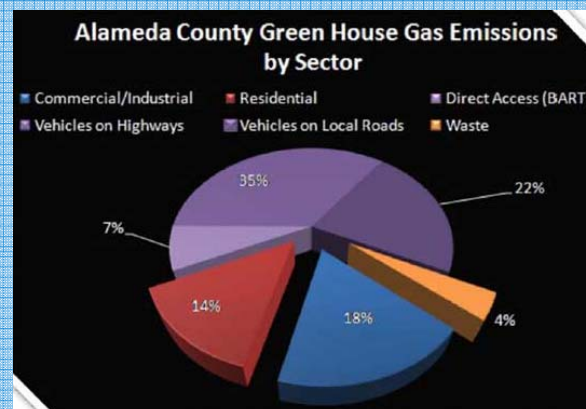
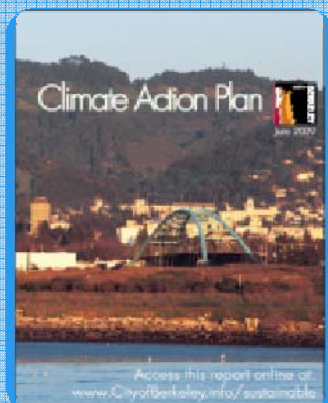
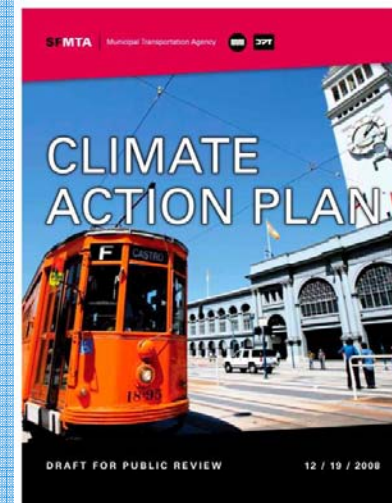
Where we are today

Bay Area Climate Action Planning

Progress to Date

End of 2009: 10 Climate Actions Plans (CAPs)

Today: 26 CAPs adopted
18 CAPs anticipated in 2012
100+ community inventories

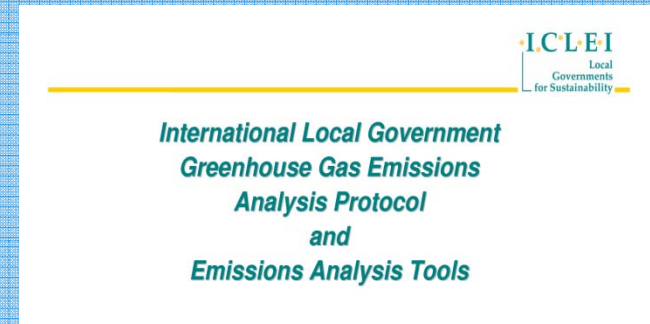


Why the Increased Activity?



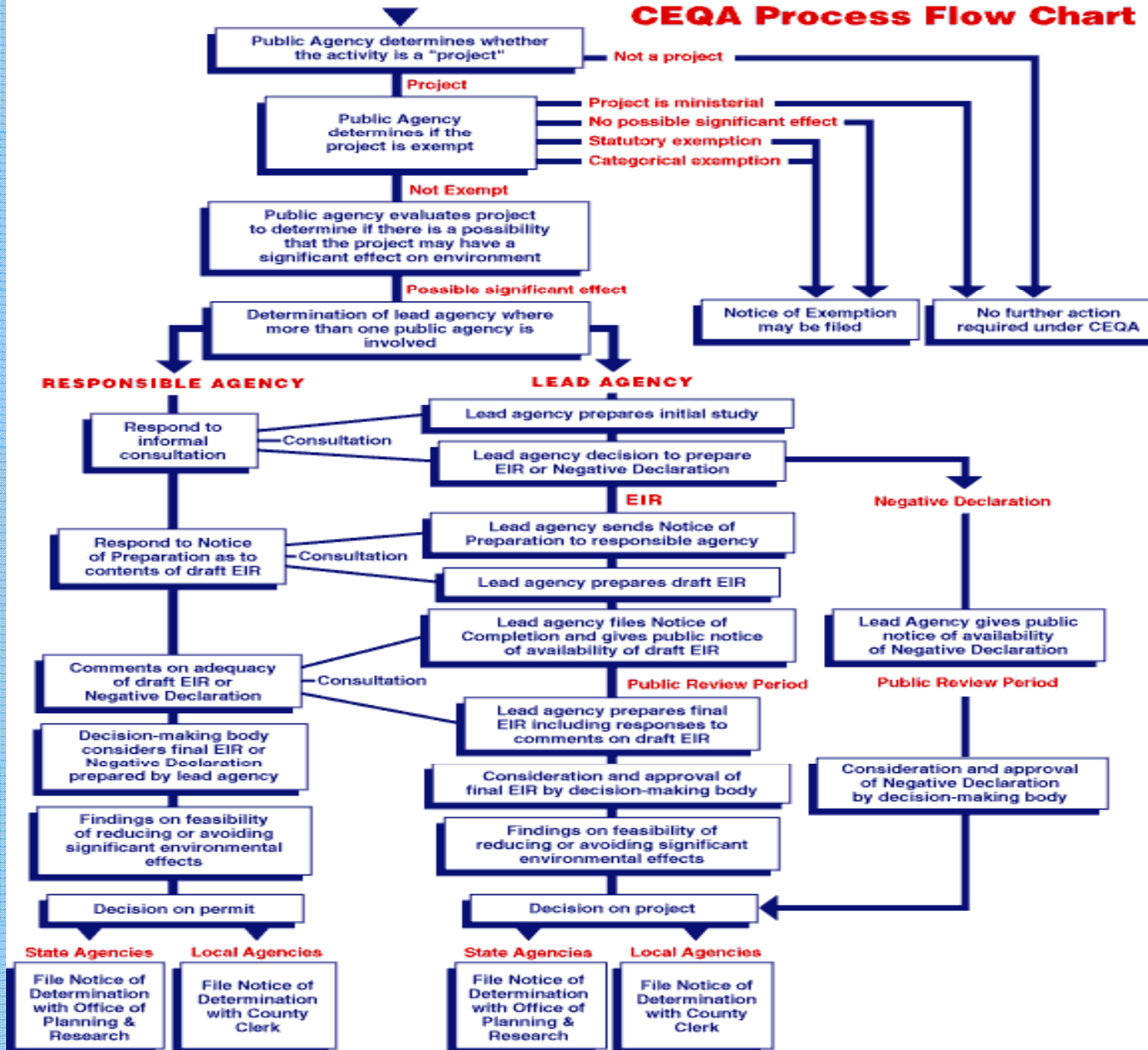
Urgency continues to be more apparent

New, better tools available



Attorney General starts enforcing CEQA

CEQA Process Flow Chart





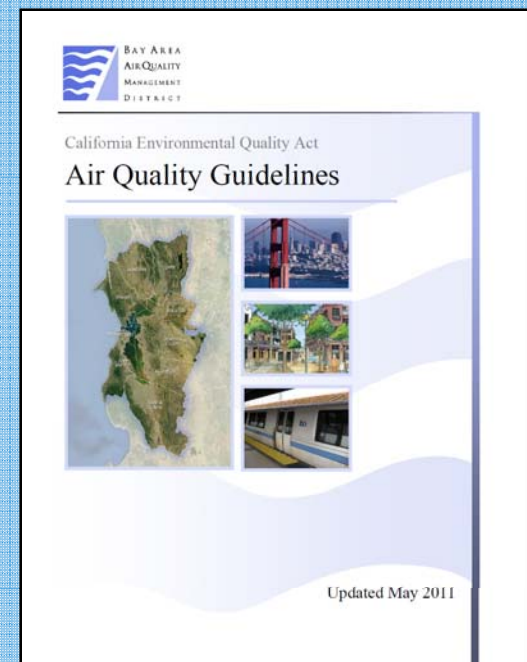
What is CEQA?

- **Process to inform decision-making**
- **Public input process**
- **Environmental review process**
- **Method for determining and *mitigating* significant environmental impacts from development projects**



How is CEQA being used to address GHGs?

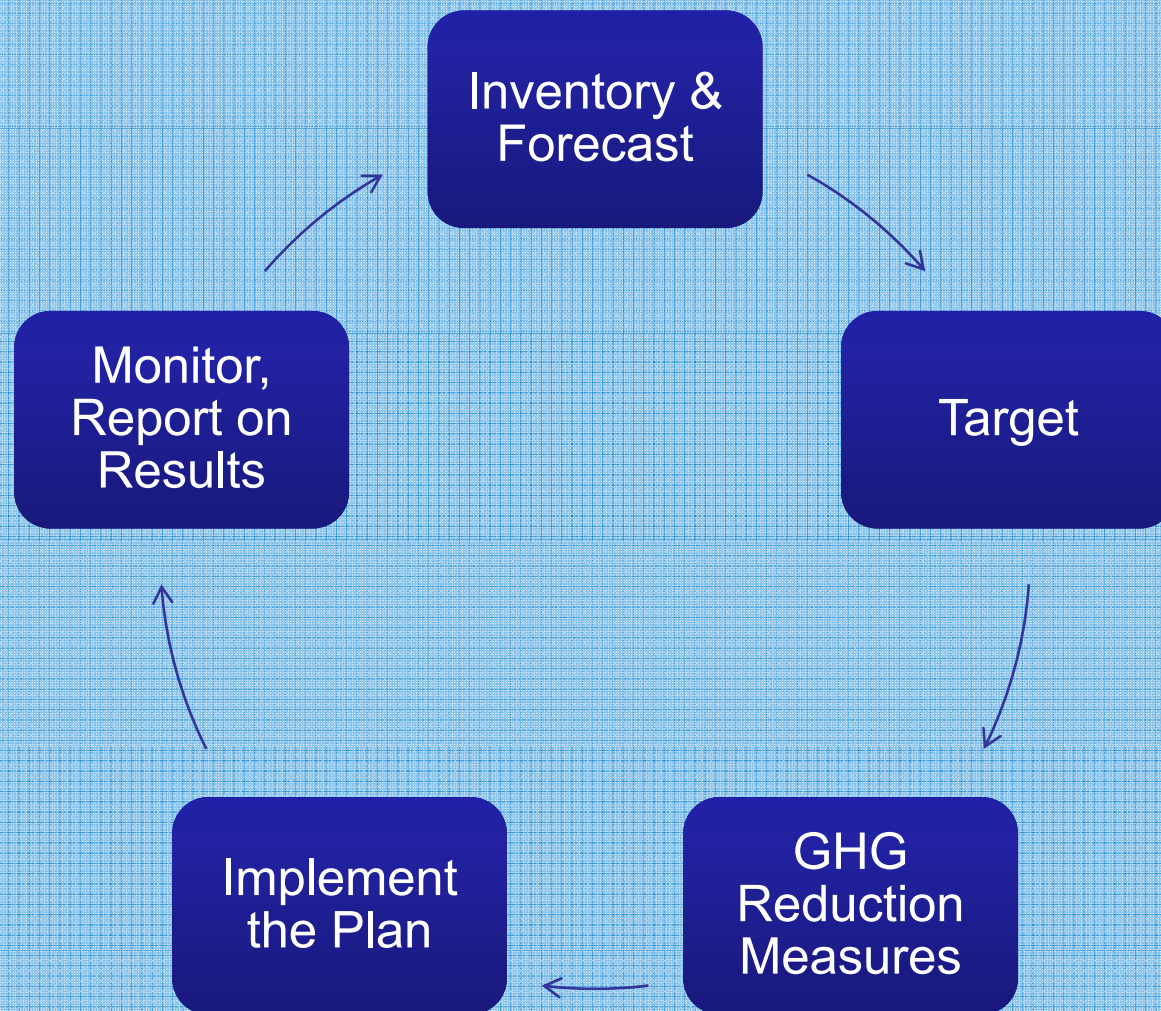
- Lawsuits
- Guidance (BAAQMD, State)
- Thresholds of significance
 - projects
 - plans



Minimum Standard Elements of a “Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy”

- a) Community-wide GHG emissions inventory and business-as-usual forecast;**
- b) GHG reduction target consistent with AB 32;**
- c) Quantification of emission reductions;**
- d) Enough measures demonstrating that, if fully implemented, the GHG reduction target will be met;**
- e) Implementation and monitoring strategy;**
- f) Public input process following environmental review.**

Traditional Climate Action Planning Process



How the “Qualified” GHG Threshold has influenced CAPs

- **Breadth and technical rigor**
- **More than visionary documents**
- **More consistent targets (AB32)**
- **GHG inventories include more emission sources**
- **Quantification of specific mitigation measures**
- **More mandatory measures**
- **Environmental review**

Top 5 Reasons Why CAPs Don't Meet “Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy” Standards

- 5. Focusing on new development**
- 4. Letting the State do the work**
- 3. Including highly speculative reduction measures**
- 2. Weak implementation strategy**
- 1. Not enough mandatory measures!**

Where we're headed

Remaining Challenges

- **Lack of widely accepted methodologies/protocols**
- **Creating CAPs with high likelihood of success**
- **Importance of implementation**



Next Steps

- **Guidance on CEQA streamlining and tiering**
- **Community-wide GHG inventory protocol**
- **Standardized transportation emissions data delivery**



CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.

12/7/19 USA TODAY

YOUNG
PITT