



1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-7490
(619) 231-1466 • FAX (619) 234-3407

Policies and Procedures

No. 2

SUBJECT:

Board Approval: 8/20/09

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PURPOSE:

To ensure that MTS-initiated projects, as that term is defined in the California Environmental Quality Act, will be in compliance with state and federal environmental laws.

BACKGROUND:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires all public agencies to adopt objectives, criteria, and specific procedures consistent with the State Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Guidelines for the orderly evaluation of projects and preparation of environmental documents.

MTS has prepared a set of Local CEQA Guidelines for adoption in compliance with CEQA's requirements. These Guidelines reflect recent changes in the State CEQA Guidelines and relevant court opinions. A copy of these Local CEQA Guidelines is on file in the Office of General Counsel. The Local CEQA Guidelines may be modified or amended from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors.

POLICY:

As a public agency, it is the policy of MTS to conform with CEQA, and, where appropriate, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible and to protect the interest of the public in securing, maintaining, preserving, protecting, rehabilitating, and enhancing the environment within the MTS jurisdictional area.

GUIDELINES:

The MTS Local CEQA Guidelines are hereby incorporated into this policy by reference as MTS's objectives, criteria, and procedures for administering its responsibilities under CEQA.

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Original policy approved on 9/11/78.

Policy revised on 5/23/85.

Policy revised on 12/8/88.

Policy revised/renumbered on 1/29/04.

Policy revised on 8/20/09.

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Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc., San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations), and San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, in cooperation with Chula Vista Transit. MTS is the taxicab administrator for seven cities. MTS member agencies include the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego, Santee, and the County of San Diego.