
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 27, 2012
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	LA Metro
Nord, Greg	OCTA

SCAG

Africa, Joann
Asuncion, John
Kuo, Ryan
Luo, Rongsheng
Nadler, Jonathan
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Crow, Jason	ARB
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Foster, Lorna	Caltrans District 8
Lay, Keith	LSA Associates
Ngo, Andrew	Caltrans District 12
O'Connor, Karina	EPA Region 9
Tax, Wienke	EPA Region 9
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 27, 2012
Minutes**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Greg Nord, OCTA, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG September 25, 2012 Meeting Minutes

This item was pulled from the agenda at the meeting because the September 25, 2012 TCWG meeting minutes were not ready.

3.2 TCWG October 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes

This item was pulled from the agenda at the meeting because the October 23, 2012 TCWG meeting minutes were not ready.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) ORA2120010

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.
(FHWA concurrence received after meeting)

In response to TCWG comments, Arman Behtash, Caltrans District 12, confirmed that the PM hot spot review form would be revised to include clarification on the length of the auxiliary lanes and their impact on traffic distribution and the revised review form would be submitted to SCAG along with the Attachment A.

4.2 Review of PM Hot Spot Qualitative Analyses

1) LA0G440 (a split from LAE046 which was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation on August 26, 2008)

The analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation.
(FWHA concurrence received after the meeting)

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 27, 2012
Minutes**

2) ORA100511_revised

The revised analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation.
(FHWA and EPA concurrence received after the meeting)

4.3 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Federal approval of 2013 FTIP was anticipated by mid-December 2012.
- 2013 FTIP Amendment #1 had been posted and was under public review.
- Project submittals for 2013 FTIP Administrative Modification #2 were due to SCAG today.

4.4 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG had received about forty-five projects for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Amendment #1 and the project submittal deadline was December 7, 2012.
- SCAG's adoption was anticipated in May or June 2013.

In response to a question, Mr. Kuo clarified that new projects can be added through an RTP Amendment.

4.5 Process for Performing Conformity Analysis for Two New Indian Tribe Non-attainment Areas for 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The purpose of this item is to seek TCWG concurrence on how to perform the conformity analysis for the new Indian Tribe ozone non-attainment areas.
- Two Indian Tribe Nations in the SCAG region were designated as nonattainment areas for the 2008 8-hour Ozone Standards: Morongo Band of Mission Indians as a "serious" non-attainment area and Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation as a "moderate" non-attainment area.
- Per the Transportation Conformity Regulations, transportation conformity needs to be determined for these two areas.
- SCAG and EPA staff held a teleconference last month to discuss which agency is responsible for performing the conformity analysis and how to do it.
- Three documents had been emailed to TCWG: 1) Policy for establishing separate air quality designations for areas of Indian Country; 2) Federal Register Notice of Indian Tribe area designations; and 3) EPA's Guidance for

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 27, 2012
Minutes**

Transportation Conformity Implementation in Multi-Jurisdictional Non-attainment and Maintenance Areas.

In response to questions, Karina O'Connor clarified the following:

- These two Indian Tribe Nations are donut ozone nonattainment areas, not isolated rural nonattainment areas, because they are within the SCAG MPO jurisdiction.
- There are no special provisions of conformity analysis for donut ozone nonattainment areas.
- As Scenario 2 areas under the Transportation Conformity Guidance for 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Areas, a budget test with the SCAB ozone budgets is allowed and sufficient to cover both the SCAB and the two Indian Tribe nonattainment areas (EPA's Guidance for Transportation Conformity Implementation in Multi-Jurisdictional Non-attainment and Maintenance Areas, Section 4.11, page 44).
- EPA planned to meet with the Indian Tribe Nations and encouraged SCAG to meet with the Indian Tribe Nations after the EPA's meeting for consultation.
- This was the first time that Indian Tribe Nations had been designated as separate nonattainment areas in the U.S.
- Conformity determination applies and must be made for the two Indian Tribe nonattainment areas by July 20, 2013.

In response to a question, Wienke Tax, EPA, stated that state implementation plans (SIPs) are optional for Indian Tribe Nations because they are not held to the same deadlines as states are.

4.6 EPA Update

Karina O'Conner, EPA, reminded TCWG of the following two deadlines:

- Grace period for qualitative hot spot analysis would end December 20, 2012.
- Conformity determination deadline for the 2008 8-hour ozone standards is July 20, 2013.

Wienke Tax, EPA, reported the following update:

- Imperial County Highway Sanctions: EPA had received and was reviewing Imperial County's dust rule revision submittals; If the submittals were approvable, EPA would propose approval of the rule revisions and issue an interim stay of the sanctions within 60 days per the Settlement Agreement.
- South Coast Sanctions Clock: EPA was still working on review of the PM2.5 contingency measure submittals.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 27, 2012
Minutes**

In response to questions, Ms. Tax confirmed that the EPA's public process to turn off the South Coast Sanctions Clock would include a proposed action, a 30-day public comment period of the proposed action and responses to the comments, and a final action; An interim stay of the sanctions clock is a tool also available to EPA. In addition, EPA was reviewing comments received on the 1-hour SIP call for the South Coast Air Basin.

4.7 ARB Update

Jason Crow, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB had forwarded to EPA Imperial County's revised Dust Rules.
- ARB staff was meeting with EPA and Caltrans staff to review the Guidance for Project Hot Spot Analysis with EMFAC2011.
- EMFAC2011 was anticipated to be approved early next year.

In response to a question, Mr. Crow confirmed that EMFAC2007 had been approved for and should be used for the quantitative hot spot analysis until EMFAC2011 is approved.

4.8 Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported that EPA had issued a final rule determining that Ventura County had attained the 1997 8-Hour Ozone standards.

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, shared that the AQMD Governing Board was scheduled to hold a hearing to adopt the Final 2012 AQMP on December 7, 2012 and the next 2012 AQMP Advisory Group Meeting would be held this coming Friday.

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday January 22, 2013 at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.