

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2014

TO: Southern California Association of Governments, Transportation Conformity Working Group

FROM: Grace Alvarez, Planning and Programming Manager, RCTC

SUBJECT: Selection of a Preferred Alternative for the Mid County Parkway Project (RIV031218)

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) that a preferred alternative has been selected for the Mid County Parkway Project (RIV031218).

A PM_{2.5}¹ and PM₁₀² Hot-Spot Analysis for the Mid County Parkway project underwent Interagency Consultation (IAC) on June 28, 2011. This hot-spot analysis evaluated the effect of three build alternatives (4 Modified, 5 Modified, and 9 Modified). The TCWG approved the analysis for all three build alternatives and deemed the PM Hot-spot Analysis acceptable for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) circulation.

On November 20, 2013 the Project Development Team for the Mid County Parkway Project identified Alternative 9 Modified with the San Jacinto River Bridge Design Variation as the preferred alternative (see attached Figure 1). Under the San Jacinto River Bridge Design Variation (SJRBDV), the MCP project would construct two bridges in the Lakeview/Nuevo area, a 531 ft bridge spanning Martin Street and a 1,941 ft bridge spanning the San Jacinto River, for a total of 2,472 ft of bridge. The base case proposes one 4,321 ft bridge to span the floodplain and Martin Street. The SJRBDV would also include a total of 1,849 ft of fill on either end of the bridges within the same limits as the base case bridge. Similar to the base case, the bridges under this design variation would be located to the south of the existing Ramona Expressway Bridge, which is 255 ft in length and would remain in place. This design variation would have no effect on the long-term regional traffic volumes. Therefore, the preferred alternative is consistent with the analysis of Alternative 9 Modified included in the May 2011 PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ Hot-Spot Analysis.

As Alternative 9 Modified is one of the three alternatives approved for NEPA circulation by the TCWG, no additional PM analyses are required.

cc: Alex Menor, RCTC
Shawn Oliver, Federal Highway Administration (California Division)
Marie Petry, Caltrans District 8
Merideth Cann, Jacobs Civil, Inc.
Keith Lay, LSA

¹ Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

² Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter.