

Date: July 12, 2012

To: Rongsheng Luo, SCAG TCWG

CC: Femi Odufalil, Caltrans District 8 – Environmental Engineering

From: Jimmy W Sims, Mark Thomas & Company

Subject RTP ID – RIV050535
State Route 60/Potrero Boulevard New Interchange Project
Caltrans EA# 341400
Previous TCWG Approval – April 28, 2009
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Update

On April 28, 2009, the SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group reviewed the above mentioned project and its associated PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis (which was submitted on April 20, 2009) and determined that the project was a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC), but the analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation. The submitted analysis and the April 28, 2009 TCWG Minutes are attached for your information and reference.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the TCWG of certain changes that have occurred since the April 2009 determination, namely:

1. The project sponsor (City of Beaumont) decided to construct the interchange project into two phases instead of one construction project due to funding limitations. Caltrans agreed to the phasing and they are described as follows:

Phase 1 would construct a new interchange in two (2) phases. Phase 1 would involve the construction of a 6-lane bridge overcrossing (3-lanes in each direction), including extending a 2-lane roadway (Potrero Boulevard) from 1,350 feet north of the SR-60 centerline to approximately 592 feet south of the SR-60 centerline. In addition, a temporary 2-lane connection to existing Western Knolls Avenue just north of the overcrossing bridge would be constructed and a concrete median barrier would be constructed along SR-60 crossing the easterly Western Knolls Avenue/Dowling Orchards intersection. Access to the mainline at this intersection would be restricted to right-in/right-out movements for both eastbound and westbound directions. No ramp connections to the SR-60 mainline would be constructed as part of Phase 1. Construction for this phase is anticipated to start in Spring 2013 and be completed by Summer 2014.

Phase 2 would involve the widening of Potrero Boulevard to 6-lanes within the above stated limits constructing westbound and eastbound entry/exit diagonal and loop entry ramps with HOV lanes and extended ramp acceleration/deceleration lane; realignment of Western Knolls Avenue and removal of Western Knolls Avenue connections to SR-60. Construction for this phase is anticipated to start in Summer 2014 and be completed by Summer 2015.

2. A Draft IS/EA was prepared (based on the phasing above) and circulated for public review and comment. The “Air Quality” section of the document disclosed the PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis and that the project was a POAQC as determined by the TCWG. The review period ended on June 18, 2012.

No comments on Air Quality Conformity were received from the public. Caltrans and the City are currently in the process of responding to comments and preparing the Final Environmental Document, and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The latter would be submitted to FHWA for review/concurrence.

3. RCTC staff has been fully coordinated with regarding the phasing of the project in anticipation of the recently approved 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. The phasing of the project is also described in the 2011 FTIP (thru Amend #11-24) Local Project Listing on page 4 of 8. As you know the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2011 FTIP have been approved for conformity by FHQA and FTA on June 14, 2012.

4. The traffic forecast and operations analysis and the PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis presented in April 2009 remain unchanged: Opening Year: 2015 and RTP Horizon/Design Year: 2035. Given this there is no need, as far as we can see, to update the analysis and that the TCWG determination is still valid.

In conclusion, although the "Programming Dates" from the April 2009 application have changed, i.e., slipped, and the project is now being phased, the PM Conformity Hot Spot analysis is, in our opinion still valid and still within the opening year and RTP horizon/design year that typically addresses air quality concerns.

We would appreciate being place on the July 24, 2012 TCWG agenda regarding this update and would be available by telecom to answer any questions the members of the TCWG would have. I can be contacted at (408) 204-5320 (mobile) or by e-mail at jsims@markthomas.com.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt reply.