



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom, teleconference, and in-person. A digital recording of the meeting is available for listening in SCAG's office.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Banuelos, Ryan

Barajas, Augustin

Gropen, Sadie

Gutierrez, Pablo

Lo, Nancy

Luo, Rongsheng

Sun, Lijin

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Anderson, Kelsie

Bade, Rabindra

Becha, Karishma

Berge, Brent

Brugger, Ron

Caraig, Ricardo

Chen, Shishi

Cooper, Keith

Dorantes, Michael

Galbreath, Holly

Gaschot, Bertrand

Gaskill, Steve

Huddleston, Lori

Hynes, Michael

Johnson, Darin

Kalandiyur, Nesamani

Kaya, Garrett

Kung, Angie

Lay, Keith

Lee, Albert

Lee, David

Legleiter, Kurt

Lewis, David

Lugaro, Julie

Machuca, Robert

Maggioncalda, Emma

Marburger, Savannah

Meneses, Mercedes

Moran, Nohemi

Morris, Michael

Provenzano, Leslie

Quintero, Gustavo

TCA

Caltrans

District 12

Caltrans

Headquarters (HQ)

Caltrans

District 11

LSA

Caltrans

District 12

RCTC/Bechtel

ERP

U.S. EPA

Region 9

Ventura County APCD (VCAPCD)

Mojave Desert AQMD (MDAQMD)

HDR

LA Metro, Long Range Planning

HDR

Mark Thomas

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

HDR

EGP Consulting

ICF

RCTC/Bechtel

Caltrans

District 8

Ambient Air Quality & Noise Consulting

RCTC

Caltrans

District 12

LA Metro

Caltrans

Headquarters (HQ)

GPA Consulting

LA Metro

SBCTA

FHWA

Parsons

RCTC



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Rafikova, Sofia
Schnapp, Angela
Schoenewald, Vanessa
Sutherland, Anders
Tavitas, Rodney
Todaro, Ryan
Tso, Kristin
Vaca, Erika
Votsch, Delia
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew

Coalition for Clean Air
Parsons
SBCTA
Terry A Hayes Associates
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
GPA Consulting
OCTA
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
Fehr & Peers
Caltrans District 7
Caltrans District 7



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Vanessa Schoenewald, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1. July 23, 2024 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

- **RIV211201:** TCWG did not concur that this project is not a project of air quality concern and requested additional information on project description and modeling.
- **Conformity Exemption Form for LA9918955:** TCWG did not concur that this project is an exempt project and requested interagency consultation with Caltrans District 7 prior to TCWG review.
- **RIV180104:** it was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.
- **Conformity Exemption for Games Route Network (GRN) 2028 Olympics and Paralympics:** TCWG did not concur that this is an exempt project under the requested safety type listed in Table 2-Exempt Projects of Section 93.126. Staff of Caltrans HQ and Caltrans District 7 would coordinate with staff of U.S. EPA and FHWA to discuss how to approach project-level conformity analysis for projects that would support temporary 2028 Olympics and Paralympics (LA28)-exclusive travel as these types of projects would be critical to the region's readiness for LA28.

4.2. RTP Update

Agustin Barajas, SCAG, reported the following:

- The draft Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 completed a 30-day public review and comment period on August 12, 2024. Comments received were general or technical in nature, and none affected the transportation conformity analyses or determinations. All comments were addressed and incorporated in the proposed final documents.
- SCAG staff would present the proposed final Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024, including the associated proposed final transportation conformity analysis, to SCAG's Regional Council for their consideration to adopt on September 5, 2024. Final federal approval of transportation conformity was anticipated in December 2024.

4.3. FTIP Update

Agustin Barajas, SCAG, reported the following:

- The public review and adoption schedule for 2025 FTIP followed that for Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 as reported under Item 4.2. The packet including the resolution would be submitted to Caltrans by September 30, 2024.
- After final federal approval of 2025 FTIP, 2025 FTIP Amendment No. 25-01 would be submitted to Caltrans and FHWA/FTA to incorporate changes made to the 2025 FTIP.
- Project updates submitted in the 2023 FTIP would be limited to those that need to obligate federal approvals or federal funding; otherwise, all other project updates should be submitted through the 2025 FTIP once it receives final federal approval in December.
- 2023 FTIP Administrative Modification No. 23-32 was approved on July 29, 2024.



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- 2023 FTIP Administrative Modification No. 23-35 was under review by SCAG staff and was expected to be approved by September 6, 2024.
- 2023 FTIP Amendment No. 23-33 was submitted to Caltrans and FHWA/FTA during the week of August 19, 2024.

4.4. EPA Update

Michael Dorantes, EPA, reported the following:

- EPA published the hot-spot analyses and project-level conformity determinations FAQs to supplement existing PM hot-spot FAQs.
- All the FAQs were available on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/420f24030.pdf>.

Lijin Sun, SCAG TCWG lead staff and also SCAG lead staff for addressing highway sanction clocks, joined Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, and Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ, on acknowledging the extraordinary efforts by FHWA, EPA, Caltrans HQ, and South Coast AQMD for fully resolving EPA action. As a result, EPA did not need to take action to finalize the proposed disapproval of the South Coast AQMD's Contingency Measure Plan. Therefore, there would be no highway sanction clock, no highway sanction, no FIP, and no severe economic impacts. It was a tremendous effort involving strategic leadership and many staff from multiple agencies. SCAG staff thanked all the involved agencies and their staff, particularly acknowledging the point of contact staff from CARB, Caltrans HQ, County Transportation Commissions, EPA Region 9, FHWA, and South Coast AQMD, listed alphabetically, for their diligent and effective interagency coordination efforts and significant contributions: Nesamani Kalandiyur from CARB; Rodney Tavitas from Caltrans HQ, Karina O'Connor and Michael Dorantes from EPA Region 9; Michael Morris from FHWA, Lori Huddleston from LA Metro; Greg Nord from OCTA; Steve Smith from SBCTA; and Dr. Sang-Mi Lee from South Coast AQMD.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ, urged all involved agencies to work immediately using the newest EPA-approved emissions model for the 2024 annual PM.5 NAAQS.

4.5. ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:

- EMFAC202Y model was under development.
- An alpha version of EMFAC202Y was released to MPOs in the state on August 26, 2024 for testing purposes and feedback.

4.6. Air Districts Updates

4.6.1. Ventura County APCD Update

Holly Galbreath, VCAPCD, reported no updates.

4.6.2. South Coast AQMD Update

No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.3. Mojave Desert AQMD Update

Bertrand Gaschot, MDAQMD, reported no updates.

4.6.3.1. Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)

Bertrand Gaschot, MDAQMD, reported the following:

- MDAQMD presented oral arguments on August 20, 2024 and was waiting court's decision.



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4.6.4. Antelope Valley AQMD Update
No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.4.1. Status Update on the AVAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1614)
No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.5. Imperial County APCD Update
No representative was present to provide updates.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

- Lijin Sun, SCAG, announced to the TCWG that PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the September TCWG meeting be emailed to her by September 10, 2024.
- Lijin Sun reminded the TCWG that the September 24, 2024 TCWG meeting would be held in a virtual format only with no in-person attendance option.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 via Zoom and by teleconference. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, September 10, 2024.