



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Asuncion, John
Barajas, Agustin
Ekman, Annaleigh
Gutierrez, Pablo
Heredia-Melchor, Sergio
Jimenez, Diego
Lo, Nancy
Luo, Rongsheng
Sangkapichai, Mana
Sun, Lijin

Via Teleconference:

Bade, Rabindra
Bagde, Abhijit
Becha, Karishma
Brock, Caleb
Brugger, Ron
Cacatian, Ben
Carpio, Wellvin
Dorantes, Michael
Espinoza Araiza, Erika
Garcia, Ismael
Garfio, Angel
Hendrawan, Kevin
Huddleston, Lori
Kahrs, Jacqueline
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Lau, Charles
Lay, Keith
Ledezma, Andrew
Maggioncalda, Emma
Marroquin, Nancy
Masters, Martha
Miranda, Jude
Moran, Nohemi
Morris, Michael
Nord, Greg
O'Connor, Karina
Odufalu, Olufemi
Pittenger, Patrick
Richmai, Michael
Silverman, Sam
Sutherland, Anders
Vaca, Erika
Vidaure, Louis
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 7
LSA
Ventura County APCD
LA Metro
EPA
Caltrans Headquarters
ICAPCD
OCTA
ARB
LA Metro
Caltrans Headquarters
ARB
Caltrans District 7
ICF
EPA
Caltrans Headquarters
LA Metro
RCTC
Caltrans District 12
SBCTA
FHWA
OCTA
US EPA Region 9
Caltrans District 8
FHWA
LA Metro
Terry A Hayes Associate
Terry A Hayes Associate
Caltrans Headquarters
SBCTA
Caltrans District 7
Caltrans District 7



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Andrew Yoon, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. December 6, 2022 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

Joseph Vaughn, a former FHWA representative on TCWG, recently retired from the FHWA. TCWG Chair and staff acknowledged and thanked Joseph for his years of dedicated participation in and contribution to the TCWG, and welcomed Patrick Pittenger, the Planning and Air Quality Team Leader for the FHWA – California Division, as a co-FHWA representative with Michael Morris.

4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

- ORA210604: It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.

4.2. Review of Project Regional Significance Determination Request

- It was determined that this project is not regionally significant because the project is already included as part of SCAG's travel demand model, and the project will not have a substantial impact on traffic (Caltrans Headquarters concurrence was received via email after the meeting).

4.3. RTP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- On January 6, 2023, SCAG released the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 including the Draft 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment #23-03 and the associated Draft transportation conformity analysis for a 30-day public review and comment period, which would end on February 5, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- One public hearing was held on January 17, 2023. No comments were received at the public hearing.
- After close of the public review and comment period, SCAG staff would review and respond to public comments received and include the responses as part of the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3.
- Staff anticipated presenting the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 to SCAG's Regional Council (RC) for adoption in April or May 2023 and federal approval anticipated in June 2023.

In response to a question from Patrick Pittenger, FHWA, it was clarified that SCAG staff would wait for the EPA approval of the updated Coachella ozone conformity budgets before seeking RC adoption of the Proposed Final Connect SoCal Amendment No. 3 including the 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment and the transportation conformity analysis.

4.4. FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- The Draft 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment #23-03 was included as part of the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 document and followed the same schedule as reported under Item 4.3.
- Staff expected federal approval of 2023 FTIP Amendment #23-01 by the end of January 2023.



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Erika Espinoza Araiza, Caltrans Headquarters, indicated that Caltrans now conducts Quality Assurance Reviews of the air quality conformity analyses for any amendments that require a new conformity determination. Caltrans could not begin the Quality Assurance Review for Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 until SCAG is out of the regional conformity lockdown or until SCAG could meet the regional conformity requirements using EMFAC2021. To conduct their Quality Assurance Review, Caltrans would need the conformity analysis documentation along with a completed conformity analysis documentation checklist for MPOs' TIPs and RTPs.

In response to a comment from Jacqueline Kahrs, Caltrans Headquarters, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, confirmed that the checklist would be included and submitted as part of the regional conformity analysis documentation.

4.5. Status Update on Regional Transportation Conformity Lockdown

Rongsheng Lou, SCAG, reported the following:

- Since the December 2022 TCWG meeting, significant process had been made in the two critical actions needed to resolve the regional transportation conformity lockdown, as well as in amendments to SCAG's RTP and FTIP to minimize the lockdown impacts.
- First, ARB's new emission model, EMFAC2021, was approved by EPA in November 2022. As previously reported, the new model significantly, though not fully, addresses the regional conformity lockdown.
- On the other essential action to fully resolve the lockdown, the South Coast AQMD and ARB had expeditiously completed their joint development and respective adoptions of an air plan with updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets. The air plan and the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets had been subsequently submitted to EPA for their final review and approval.
- EPA released the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets on 12/21/2022, 10 days ahead of their originally indicated schedule, for a 30-day public review and comment period which concluded on 1/20/2023.
- In SCAG's proactive RTP and FTIP amendments to minimize the impact of the conformity lockdown, the draft amendments document was under a 30-day public review as reported under Items 4.3 and 4.4.
- If everything would go well as anticipated, SCAG's RC adoption of the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 and 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment #23-03 including the transportation conformity analysis could occur in early April 2023 instead of May, and federal approval anticipated within a month or two after the RC adoption.
- Staff noted that RC adoption would require EPA's prior approval of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets.

4.6. EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

Updated Coachella Valley Ozone Budgets:

- The updated budgets were posted for public review in December 2022. The public comment period closed on 1/20/2023. No comments were received.
- EPA published the proposed approval of the Coachella Valley air plan with updated ozone budgets to reclassify the Coachella Valley ozone nonattainment area from "Severe-15" to "Extreme" for the 2008 ozone NAAQS in the Federal Register on 1/11/2023 for a 30-day public review and comment period, which would close on 2/10/2023.
- EPA was on track of completing both actions in March 2023, pending any public comments on the proposed bump-up request.

In response to a question from Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, Karina clarified that EPA must complete the "bump-up" process first before the adequacy review process could be completed. In addition, it was not possible for EPA to predict how long it would take the Federal Register's Office to publish a notice.



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Highway Sanction Clocks:

- Highway sanction clocks are triggered when there is a SIP disapproval or non-submittal of a required SIP.
- EPA must receive a new SIP submittal that corrects the deficiencies then publish proposed and final actions to turn off highway sanction clocks.
- If the underlying deficiencies are not fully resolved, highway sanctions are imposed in 24 months from the start date of highway sanction clock.

Lijin Sun, SCAG, noted the 1996 FHWA's Final Policy Statement on "Exemption Criteria Policy for Highway Sanctions" in the Federal Register which could be found at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1996-04-01/pdf/96-7821.pdf>.

Status Update on EPA Concurrence of the OCTA 2nd/Two Transit TCM Substitution:

- It was expected that EPA's concurrence letter would be ready by the end of January 2023.

4.7. ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- The 2015 federal 8-hour ozone standard of 70 ppb state implementation plans including motor vehicle emission budgets for the South Coast Air Basin, Coachella Valley, and Ventura County would be considered by ARB Board for adoption at its meeting on January 26, 2023.
- EMFAC2021 adjustment factors to account for emissions reductions from ARB's Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program were under development. ARB staff had met with EPA staff to discuss the technical methodologies and assumptions used to develop the adjustment factors and would continue to meet with EPA. In the meantime, a draft transmittal letter to EPA had been prepared and was under review with ARB management.

In response to Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, Karina O'Conner, EPA, indicated that EPA staff would develop a list of questions for ARB on their assumptions for the emissions reduction estimates. In addition, EPA was proceeding cautiously in their review of the adjustment factors from the Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program. The Program was new and had potential implications on other states nationwide. EPA would still need to go through a process to review the Program for approval. The Program was also significant due to the significant amount of emissions reduction. There had been no SIP or SIP budget including those emissions reductions that EPA had acted on.

4.8. Air Districts Updates

- 4.8.1. Status Update on EPA Final Disapproval of AVAQMD Rule 315 and Final Action to Find Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Antelope Valley Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area
No representatives present to provide an update.
- 4.8.2. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1160; Final Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 315; Final Action to Find Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for San Bernardino County Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Proposed Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, and 1305
No representatives present to provide an update.
- 4.8.3. Status Update on EPA Proposed Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rules 1106, 1106.1, and 1107; Final Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rule 1118; Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable



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Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for SCAQMD; Final Action to Find Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Coachella Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported on behalf of South Coast AQMD:

EPA Proposed Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rules 1106, 1106.1, and 1107 and EPA Final Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rule 1118:

- South Coast AQMD completed its public processes for addressing deficiencies identified in two out of four EPA's SIP disapprovals affecting the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction.
- The amended Rules 1106, 1106.1, 1107, and 1118, which were expected to fully resolve the deficiencies, were adopted by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board at its meeting on January 6, 2023.
- The amended rules would be submitted to EPA for approval.
- EPA approval is required before the highway sanction clocks are turned off.

EPA Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for SCAQMD:

- This limited disapproval concerns the South Coast AQMD Rules 463 and 1178.
- The public processes for developing amendments to these rules are ongoing. A public workshop to discuss proposed amendments to the rules was scheduled for February 2023.

Finding of Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS:

- The same status as reported at the December 6, 2022 TCWG meeting.
- South Coast AQMD was still waiting for EPA's guidance.
- Once EPA's guidance becomes available, South Coast AQMD staff would begin its public process to develop measures. The public process would take at least 18 months to complete before adopting and submitting contingency measures to EPA for approval to turn off the highway sanction clock.

4.8.4. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for VCAPCD

Ben Cacatian, Ventura County AQMD, reported the following:

- There were no updates on the rule revisions efforts to report at this item.
- Ventura County APCD was aware of the highway sanction clock which had already started in October 2022 and aimed to address the underlying deficiencies identified in EPA final limited disapproval by April 2024.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Patrick Pittenger, FHWA, acknowledged the receipt of SCAG's 2023 FTIP Amendment #23-01 and expected to complete FHWA review by Friday, January 27, 2023.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 via teleconference and Zoom meeting only. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, February 21, 2023.