



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 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
Calderon, Karen
Jimenez, Diego
Lo, Nancy
Luo, Rongsheng
Pardo, Isabella
Sun, Lijin

Via Teleconference:

Alido, Josephine
Bade, Rabindra
Becha, Karishma
Brugger, Ron
Carpio, Wellvin
Espinoza Araiza, Erika
Garfio, Angel
Hendrawan, Kevin
Huddleston, Lori
Islam, Fatima
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Kochaon, Anne
Lay, Keith
Lugaro, Julie
Maggioncalda, Emma
Miranda, Jude
Moran, Nohemi
Morris, Michael
O'Connor, Karina
Odufalu, Olufemi
Richmai, Michael
Sutherland, Anders
Tavitas, Rodney
Vaca, Erika
Wang, Sam
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew

Parsons
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
LSA
LA Metro
Caltrans Headquarters
OCTA
ARB
LA Metro
Caltrans District 8
ARB
Parsons
ICF
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 12
SBCTA
FHWA
US EPA Region 9
Caltrans District 8
LA Metro
Terry A Hayes Associates
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans Headquarters
South Coast AQMD
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 10:02 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1. January 24, 2023 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG Meeting.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

- 20190015: It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern (FTA concurrence was received via email after the meeting).
- LA0G086: It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.

4.2. RTP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- On January 5, 2023, SCAG released the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 for a 30-day public review and comment period, which ended on February 5, 2023. No comments were received.
- SCAG staff anticipated presenting the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 to SCAG's Regional Council (RC) for adoption in May 2023, after EPA final approval of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets.

Karina O'Conner, EPA, commented that the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 document did not indicate that EPA had not yet approved the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets or EMFAC2021 adjustment factors. The public would not know reading this document that EPA had not acted on either item. SCAG's RC could not adopt the Amendment No. 3 until EPA has acted on both items.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, stated that the issues concerning EMFAC2021 adjustment factors must be resolved, and SCAG must show that Amendment No. 3 could pass regional transportation conformity using EMFAC2021. Caltrans must recommend concurrence before FHWA approves Amendment No. 3. At this time, Caltrans could not make that recommendation.

In response to a question, Nancy Lo, SCAG, clarified that the caveat language about the pending EPA approval of the Coachella Valley ozone budgets was included in the staff report.

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, stated that EMFAC2021 adjustment factors which account for emissions reductions from ARB's Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program were submitted to EPA for review. Due to the significant amount of emissions reductions, staff of EPA and ARB had been working together on technical assumptions for the emissions reduction estimates. Both agencies planned to meet again in late March 2023.

In response to a question, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that SCAG staff would schedule a follow-up meeting with staff of EPA and ARB to discuss technical details of EMFAC2021 adjustment factors and report back to TCWG.



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4.3. 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 4.2.

4.4. Status Update on Regional Transportation Conformity Lockdown

Rongsheng Lou, SCAG, reported the following:

- As will be reported under EPA Update, EPA had made further progress in their review of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets and the associated Coachella Valley bump-up reclassification request.
- Nonetheless, as EPA staff reported at the January 2023 TCWG meeting and later re-affirmed via e-mail, the effective date of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets was expected to be around April 15, 2023 as EPA originally anticipated.
- SCAG staff continued to make progress on the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment 3 and 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment as reported under Items 4.2 and 4.3.
- If everything would go well as anticipated, SCAG's RC adoption of the Amendments including the associated transportation conformity analysis could occur in May 2023 and federal approval shortly after RC adoption.
- Again, RC adoption would require EPA's prior approval of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets.
- SCAG staff would schedule a meeting with staff of the reviewing agencies (Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA) to request their advanced and expedited reviews of the Amendments, such that federal approval could occur as soon as possible after RC adoption.

Rodney Tavitias, Caltrans Headquarters, stated that if SCAG could pass regional conformity using EMFAC2021, Caltrans staff was committed to completing their review expeditiously.

4.5. EPA Update

Karina O'Conner, EPA, reported the following:

Updated Coachella Valley Ozone Budgets

- The updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets involved a two-step process.
 - a) The first step was the reclassification. EPA's proposed action to reclassify the Coachella Valley nonattainment area from "Severe-15" to "Extreme" for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS was published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2023. The public comment period ended on February 10, 2023. Two comments generally supportive of the reclassification were received. EPA's final action to approve the reclassification would be published in the Federal Register anticipated in March 2023.
 - b) The second step was the adequacy review process. A letter making the adequacy finding of the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets would need be sent to ARB following by an adequacy notice published in the Federal Register. The updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets would be effective 15 days after the publication date of the adequacy notice in the Federal Register.

In response to a question, Karina clarified that no specific date for when the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets would become effective. However, it was anticipated that the effective date would be around mid-April 2023. A clearer timeline could be available by the next TCWG Meeting.

EMFAC2021 Adjustment Factors:

- EPA staff was reviewing the technical documentation of EMFAC2021 adjustment factors submitted by ARB and had several questions on the assumptions.
- Staff of EPA and ARB would meet at the next ongoing meeting on March 20, 2023 to discuss these questions.



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Rodney Tavitias, Caltrans Headquarters, commented that only after the updated Coachella Valley ozone budgets were effective, and concerns about the EMFAC2021 adjustment factors were addressed, could Connect SoCal Amendment No. 3 be approved, and transportation projects included in the Amendment be allowed to move forward with implementation.

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

- EPA concurrence of OCTA TCM substitution of two transit projects (FTIP Project IDs: ORA130099 and ORA030612) was signed on January 24, 2023 and provided to SCAG via e-mail on January 27, 2023.

4.6. 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 were approved by ARB Board and subsequently transmitted to EPA on February 23, 2023. The 2015 federal 8-hour ozone standard of 70 ppb state implementation plan including motor vehicle emission budgets for the Western Mojave Desert was approved by ARB Board on February 23, 2023 and would be subsequently transmitted to EPA in March 2023. Once EPA acts on the SIPs, the budgets included in the respective SIP would be effective.
- The technical documentation for EMFAC2021 adjustment factors was transmitted to EPA. ARB staff would continue to engage with EPA staff to answer their questions and would discuss technical details at the next ongoing EPA/ARB meeting on March 20, 2023.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that the amount of emissions reductions needed for SCAG's Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment No. 3 and 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment was very small while the full amount of emissions reductions from ARB's Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program was significant. He requested for ARB and EPA considerations a near-term, targeted emissions reduction specifically for meeting SCAG's needs of the Amendments. Nesamani stated that ARB staff had a good understanding of SCAG's needs and would continue their discussions with EPA.

4.7. Air Districts Update

4.7.1. Status Update on EPA Final Disapproval of AVAQMD Rule 315; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Antelope Valley Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Proposed Limited Disapproval of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported on behalf of AVAQMD:

- On February 28, 2023, AVAQMD's Executive Committee had a scheduled meeting with Aerospace Industry representatives representing companies working in Palmdale Air Force Plant 42 and representatives of the Air Force to discuss potential future strategy regarding EPA's recent proposed limited approval and limited disapproval of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309.
- AVAQMD would submit a comment letter outlining their disagreement on EPA's interpretation of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309 before the public comment period closed on March 1, 2023.

4.7.2. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1160; Final Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 315; 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

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported on behalf of MDAQMD:

- MDAQMD Rule 315 was amended to address the SIP deficiencies identified in EPA's final disapproval.



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- The amended MDAQMD Rule 315 was adopted by the MDAQMD Board at its meeting on February 27, 2023 and subsequently would be submitted to ARB for submittal to EPA for approval.

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

Sam Wang, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD staff would hold a public workshop on the proposed amended Rules 463 and 1178 on March 1, 2023.
- The proposed amended Rules 463 and 1178 would be presented to the SCAQMD Board for adoption anticipated in May 2023.
- No updates on the other items listed in 4.7.3.

4.7.4. 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

No representatives to provide an update.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that the SCAG region was impacted by 10 highway sanction clocks (seven active and three anticipated clocks) and asked EPA staff if there was a reason for why there were so many local rules SIPs disapprovals and if EPA staff had an estimate on more local rule SIPs that EPA had identified concerns. Karina O'Conner, EPA, clarified that EPA staff had and would continue to work with local air districts staff to address local rules SIPs deficiencies. In general, deficiencies in local rules SIPs were resolved closer to and prior to the imposition of sanctions. EPA staff had and would continue to monitor the status of sanctions clocks resulted from the failure to submit a required contingency measures SIP as the impacted air districts were waiting for EPA contingency measures guidance. EPA staff was also working proactively with staff of FHWA and Caltrans to develop and have a process in place in case highway sanctions were triggered.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Starting with the March 2023 TCWG Meeting, members of the public are welcome to attend in-person and remotely. If members of the public wish to attend in-person, the meeting will take place in SCAG's Los Angeles office. More information will be provided as part of the March 2023 TCWG Meeting Agenda before the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on Tuesday, March 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, March 14, 2023.