



# TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

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  
Calderon, Karen  
Ekman, Annaleigh  
Gutierrez, Pablo  
Lo, Nancy  
Luo, Rongsheng  
Martinez, Jennifer  
Sangkapichai, Mana  
Sun, Lijin*

#### **Via Teleconference:**

*Anderson, Kelsie  
Anderson, Steven  
Arellano, Lexie  
Aube, Nicole  
Bade, Rabindra  
Bagde, Abhijit  
Becha, Karishma  
Blake, Michelle  
Brugger, Ron  
Cacatian, Ben  
Carpio, Wellvin  
Chan, Jenny  
Comstock, Laura  
Cooper, Keith  
Espinoza Araiza, Erika  
Garfio, Angel  
Hendrawan, Kevin  
Kahrs, Jacqueline  
Kirkup, Kaitlyn  
Lau, Charles  
Lay, Keith  
Lee, David  
Marroquin, Nancy  
Miranda, Jude  
O'Connor, Karina  
Richmai, Michael  
Sanchez, Lucas  
Vaughn, Joseph  
Wang, Sam  
Yoon, Andrew*

*TCA  
David Evans and Associates  
Caltrans Headquarters  
City of Huntington Beach  
Caltrans District 12  
Caltrans Headquarters  
Caltrans Headquarters  
Caltrans District 11  
LSA  
Ventura County APCD  
LA Metro  
RCTC  
GPA Consulting  
ERP  
Caltrans Headquarters  
OCTA  
CARB  
Caltrans Headquarters  
Advanced Civil Technologies  
Caltrans District 7  
ICF  
Caltrans District 8  
LA Metro  
Caltrans District 12  
US EPA Region 9  
LA Metro  
Caltrans Headquarters  
FHWA  
South Coast AQMD  
Caltrans District 7*



# TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

## 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. August 23, 2022 TCWG Meeting Minutes  
The modified meeting minutes were approved.

### 4. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

- **ORA151401:** It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.
- **H9-08-008:** It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.

#### 4.2. RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of Nancy Lo, SCAG:

- SCAG's Regional Council authorized the release of the Draft Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2 for a 30-day public review and comment period from July 8, 2022 to August 8, 2022.
- Two virtual public hearings were held for the Draft Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2 on July 19 and July 28, 2022.
- No public comments were received on the Draft Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2.
- The proposed final Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2 would be presented to the Regional Council (RC) for adoption on October 6, 2022, with federal approval anticipated in December 2022.

#### 4.3. FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- The Draft 2023 FTIP was authorized for public release and also went through the same 30-day public review including the two public hearings concurrently with the Draft Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2. A total of 24 public comments were received. These public comments are technical in nature and do not affect transportation conformity. SCAG staff would work closely with the CTCs and SCAG Legal staff to address all comments received. All minor and technical changes to projects will be addressed in Amendment 1 of the 2023 FTIP.
- SCAG's Transportation Committee approved the proposed final 2023 FTIP at their meeting on September 1, 2022.
- The proposed final 2023 FTIP would be presented to SCAG's Regional Council for adoption on October 6, 2022, with federal approval anticipated in December 2022.

#### 4.4. Status Update on Regional Transportation Conformity Lockdown

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

##### **EMFAC2021:**

- At the time of the September TCWG meeting, ARB staff had not submitted EMFAC2021 to EPA. A status update on EMFAC2021 would be provided by ARB staff under Item 4.6.

##### **Draft New Coachella Valley Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget for the 2008 8-hour Ozone Standard**

- SCAG staff had completed the evaluation of the draft Coachella Valley ozone budgets developed by ARB staff and confirmed that the draft budgets were appropriate.



# TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

## Major Activities and Progress to Resolve Coachella Valley Ozone Budgets Shortfalls

- Since the August 2022 TCWG meeting, staff from the four-agency (South Coast AQMD, ARB, EPA, and SCAG) met for the 6<sup>th</sup> time on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This was also the first quad-weekly status meeting where the four-agency staff provided updates on their respective major efforts to resolve Coachella Valley ozone budgets shortfalls.
- South Coast AQMD staff developed a draft staff report for the voluntary request to reclassify Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and held a public consultation meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> where South Coast AQMD staff presented and sought public comments on the voluntary reclassification request and the updated Coachella ozone emissions budget.
- South Coast AQMD staff was accepting written comments on the voluntary reclassification request and the associated staff report through October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- SCAG staff participated in the public consultation meeting and provided comments in strong support of South Coast AQMD staff's efforts.
- In addition, SCAG staff had provided status update to SCAG's Regional Council, Planning Directors, and CEOs of the six County Transportation Commissions in the SCAG region at their respective monthly meetings earlier this month (September 2022).
- SCAG staff is continuing work on the proactive concurrent 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #3 and 2023 FTIP modeling amendment #23-03 to minimize the lockdown impact.
- Although the release of the proactive concurrent Draft 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #3 and the Draft 2023 FTIP modeling amendment #23-03 had been delayed to early January 2023 (mainly due to holidays in November and December), staff anticipated Regional Council's adoption of the amendments in April/May 2023.
- If all would go well as planned, the amendments were expected to receive federal approval in April/May 2023.

## 4.5. EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- EPA staff was moving forward on their concurrence letter on OCTA's TCA TCM Substitution.
- EPA staff had not received EMFAC2021 submittal from ARB and deferred the status update on EMFAC2021 to ARB staff under Item 4.6.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, asked if Karina O'Connor, EPA, could share a status update on the final SIP disapproval concerning South Coast AQMD's local Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares. The final SIP disapproval would be effective in October 2022 and would immediately trigger sanction clocks. If not resolved in time, it would lead to imposition of stationary sanction in 18 months (April 2024) and highway sanction in 24 months (October 2024) in the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. Karina would check on the status of the sanction clocks and provide an update at the next TCWG meeting.

Andrew Yoon, TCWG Chair/Caltrans District 7, requested that SCAG staff share the status update with TCWG, if received from EPA staff. Rongsheng agreed to the request and stated that SCAG staff had requested a meeting with South Coast AQMD staff to get more information on their workplan and efforts to address their SIP issue. In addition, SCAG staff would continue to include discussions on local air districts' SIP issues at the future TCWG meetings.

## 4.6. ARB Update

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported on behalf of ARB staff that

- ARB and EPA management were working on finalizing the EMFAC2021 approval.
- ARB staff was also developing the EMFAC2017 adjustment factors for all the recently approved regulations by the ARB's Governing Board.



# TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

## 4.7. Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- On September 1<sup>st</sup>, VCAPCD released the Draft Ventura County 2022 AQMP for a 30-day public review and comment period that would end on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On September 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m., VCAPCD staff would hold a virtual public workshop on the Draft Ventura County 2022 AQMP. For more information on how to participate in the public workshop and their Draft 2022 AQMP, please visit VCAPCD's website at: [www.vcapcd.org](http://www.vcapcd.org).

Ben also confirmed that the Draft Ventura County 2022 AQMP included the motor vehicle emissions budget for Ventura County under the 2015 8-hour ozone standard.

### 4.7.1. Status Update on EPA Proposed Disapproval of AVAQMD and MDAQMD SIP Revision

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported on behalf of MDAQMD staff that:

- MDAQMD staff had provided EPA staff a draft version of their revised local Rule 315 that they hoped would satisfy the deficiencies identified in the EPA's proposed disapproval.
- EPA staff were expected to provide comments on the draft version by mid to late October 2022.
- At the time of the September 2022 TCWG meeting, EPA had not finalized the proposed disapproval as the EPA's action published in June 2022 was still a proposed action.
- As a separate update, MDAQMD staff continued work on their 2022 AQMP for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard.

### 4.7.2. Status Update on EPA Proposed Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD SIP Revision

Sam Wang, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD staff was working to address the deficiencies identified in the EPA's final disapproval concerning their local Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares through a rule amendment.
- SCAQMD staff was also working to address the deficiencies identified in the EPA's proposed limited disapproval concerning their local rules for marine and pleasure craft coatings.

After the September TCWG meeting, SCAG staff emailed TCWG weblinks to the Federal Registers that described EPA's actions concerning local air districts' respective local SIP issues.

## 5. INFORMATION SHARING

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported that SCAG staff had made a technical revision to replace RTIP ID with FTIP ID on the PM hot spot form template. No other technical revisions were made. The revised PM hot spot form template is available on SCAG's website.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 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](mailto:sunl@scag.ca.gov), by Tuesday, October 11, 2022.