



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom and teleconference. A digital recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Banuelos, Ryan
Calderon, Karen
Gutierrez, Pablo
Lo, Nancy
Luo, Rongsheng
Sun, Lijin

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Bade, Rabindra
Becha, Karishma
Brugger, Ron
Dorantes, Michael
Espinosa Araiza, Erika
Jamoralin, Joseph
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Kim, Jeff
Lay, Keith
Lee, David
Lee, Sang-Mi
Lods, Barbara
Masters, Martha
Meneses, Mercedes
Moran, Nohemi
Morris, Michael
Nord, Greg
O'Connor, Karina
Odufalu, Olufemi
Rafikova, Sofia
Rogozen, Michael
Schoenewald, Vanessa
Tavitas, Rodney
Vaca, Erika
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
LSA
U.S. EPA Region 9
Caltrans HQ
Caltrans District 12
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
City of Fontana
ICF
Caltrans District 8
South Coast Air Quality Management District
Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
RCTC
LA Metro
SBCTA
FHWA
OCTA
U.S. EPA Region 9
Caltrans District 8
Coalition for Clean Air
UltraSystems Environmental Incorporated
SBCTA
Caltrans HQ
Caltrans HQ
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. August 27, 2024 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

- **Attachment 4.1-1 20199902:** it was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.

TCWG Chair acknowledged receipt of a comment letter for Attachment 4.1-1. The comment letter was posted on SCAG's website at: <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/tcwg092424-4-1-1-20199902-comment-letter.pdf?1727191635>.

In response to the comment letter, U.S. EPA and Caltrans HQ staff representatives clarified that examples of traffic volumes included in the U.S. EPA Transportation Conformity Regulations and PM Hot-Spot Guidance were not meant to be used as a bright line for setting criteria or thresholds for individual transportation projects. Each transportation project has unique aspects and should be independently and uniquely evaluated.

U.S. EPA and Caltrans HQ staff representatives also clarified that whether a transportation project was located in a PM10 and/or PM2.5 nonattainment and/or maintenance area was not sufficient alone to determine the project would need PM hot spot analysis. All transportation projects should be independently evaluated which was the purpose for conducting interagency consultation for such projects at TCWG meetings.

Furthermore, for future PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms, it was recommended that project representative provide more comprehensive presentations about the project by including all relevant project details and are prepared and ready to answer questions from federal concurring agencies staff at the time of TCWG meeting.

- 4.2. RTP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 and the associated transportation conformity analysis were adopted by SCAG's Regional Council on September 5, 2024.
- Final federal approval of transportation conformity determination was anticipated around mid-December 2024.

- 4.3. FTIP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The adoption schedule for the final 2025 FTIP followed that for Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 as reported under Item 4.2. All final 2025 FTIP documents including the Resolution were submitted to Caltrans HQ prior to September 30, 2024. Final federal approval of transportation conformity determination was anticipated around mid-December 2024.



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- SCAG staff was finalizing 2025 FTIP Amendment #25-01 and would submit it for state and federal reviews and approvals concurrent with submittal of the final 2025 FTIP. Federal approval of 2025 FTIP Amendment #25-1 would be expected shortly after final federal approval of the 2025 FTIP.
- 2023 FTIP Amendment #23-33 received federal approval on August 30, 2024.
- 2023 FTIP Administrative Modification Amendment #23-35 was approved on September 6, 2024.
- Project submittals for 2023 FTIP Administrative Modification Amendment #23-36 and Amendment #23-37 was under SCAG staff review.

4.4. EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, U.S. EPA, reported the following:

- U.S. EPA staff was aware of a recent court decision regarding the litigation involving Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) and was reviewing the court decision. As a result, there was no new update on the status of offset and highway sanctions in the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which were triggered by the limited disapproval of MDAQMD's new source review (NSR) rules and would be imposed in January 2025 and July 2025, respectively. U.S. EPA staff would provide updates on potential impacts from the court decision at a future TCWG meeting.
- In response to a question, U.S. EPA staff was not aware that a decision or action by U.S. EPA in response to the court decision would be needed by November 29, 2024.

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. CARB staff received MPOs feedback on the alpha version and would incorporate in the update to be released in November 2024.
- Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ, requested that should there be any potential complications or impacts anticipated from this new model, it would be important to notify Caltrans early so that they could start the mitigation process. CARB staff would coordinate with Caltrans staff in support of the new model as necessary.

4.6. Air Districts Updates

4.6.1. Ventura County APCD Update

No representative was present to provide updates

4.6.2. South Coast AQMD Update

Sang-Mi Lee, South Coast AQMD, reported the following:

- The South Coast AQMD Governing Board would conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the Coachella Valley Attainment Plan for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard on October 4, 2024. In 2023, the Coachella Valley was reclassified from "Severe-15" to "Extreme" nonattainment to resolve a regional transportation conformity lockdown in the SCAG region. The Coachella Valley Attainment Plan was developed to address the "Extreme" ozone nonattainment area air quality planning requirements.

4.6.3. Mojave Desert AQMD Update

No representative was present to provide updates.



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4.6.3.1. Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)
No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.4. Antelope Valley AQMD Update
Barbara Lods, Antelope Valley AQMD, reported no updates.

4.6.4.1. Status Update on the AVAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1614)
Barbara Lods, Antelope Valley AQMD, reported no updates.

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

5. INFORMATION SHARING

5.1. Retirement Farewell

- Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, announced that he would be retiring from SCAG on October 15, 2024. The September 24, 2024 meeting was Mr. Luo's last TCWG meeting and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all current and former TCWG members, Chairs, and the public who participated in TCWG meetings and collaborated towards improving transportation and air quality in the SCAG region.

Lijin Sun, SCAG TCWG lead staff; Martha Masters, RCTC; Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB; Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ; and Greg Nord, OCTC joined in thanking and congratulating Rongsheng for the past 14 years in leading and supporting the TCWG.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 in a hybrid format with virtual and in-person options. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, October 8, 2024.