
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 27, 2012
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	Metro
Nord, Greg	OCTA

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Luo, Rongsheng
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Crow, Jason	ARB
Drummonds, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Higgins, Kathryn	SCAQMD
Joshi, Melissa	Caltrans, District 7
Krebs, Cindy	OCTA
O'Connor, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Sonnenberg, Stew	FHWA
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, announced that Greg Nord, TCWG Chair Alternate from OCTA, will be chairing TCWG meetings for the rest of the year.

Mr. Nord called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

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3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG January 24, 2012 Meeting Minutes

This item was removed from the agenda at the meeting and will be on the April TCWG meeting agenda.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) ORA030612

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

2) ORA120320

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

4.2 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- All 2011 FTIP Amendments through #21 had received all necessary approvals.
- Amendment #22 had been posted on SCAG website for public review.
- Administrative Modification #23 was expected to be submitted from the County Transportation Commissions today.
- SCAG staff continued analyzing the 2013 FTIP and expected the analysis to be completed on schedule.

4.3 RTP Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, gave the following presentation on the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Conformity Re-determination with New 8-hour Ozone Budgets for South Coast Air Basin:

- EPA published a final rule in the Federal Register on March 1, 2012 approving the South Coast 2007 Ozone SIP Revisions which include new 8-hour ozone budgets. The new ozone budgets will become effective on April 30, 2012.
- SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS is scheduled to be adopted by the SCAG Regional Council (RC) on April 4, 2012. As a result, conformity will need to

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be re-determined with the new ozone budgets for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) prior to FHWA/FTA approval.

- The conformity re-determination analysis shows that the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS meets the five required conformity tests and demonstrates a positive conformity finding.
- Specifically, the new 8-hour ozone budgets would not change any policies, programs or projects in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS scheduled to be adopted by the RC. The 2012-2035 RTP/SCS meets all applicable federal and state requirements and regulations.
- The 2012-2035 RTP/SCS regional emissions for ozone precursors meet all applicable emission budget tests for all milestone, attainment and planning horizontal years for the South Coast Air Basin.
- The regional emissions analysis for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS for South Coast Air Basin with the new ozone budgets updates the corresponding regional emissions analysis for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS to be adopted by SCAG's RC on April 4, 2012.
- The new ozone budgets do not revise or otherwise alter the schedule, funding priority, or implementation of any TCM in the South Coast Air Basin.
- The new ozone budgets do not revise or otherwise alter the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS financial constraint determination.
- Finally, the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS complies with all federal and state requirements for interagency consultation and public involvement. The preliminary regional emissions analysis was presented to the EEC on March 1, 2012; the draft conformity re-determination is being discussed at TCWG today and will be released for a 15-day public comment period upon RC authorization on April 4, 2012.

The following RTP update from Ryan Kuo, SCAG, was emailed to TCWG after the meeting on March 29, 2012:

- The formal public comment period ended on February 14.
- SCAG received comments from 303 entities totaling over 1,500 total comments.
- SCAG Staff-proposed Responses to Comments and the proposed final RTP/SCS were posted early last week.
- The Joint Policy Committees took action at a special meeting on March 21 to recommend Regional Council approval of the proposed Responses and proposed RTP/SCS.
- The proposed RTP/SCS and all appendices, including the proposed Responses to Comments, were now on SCAG website.

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- The RC is expected to adopt RTP/SCS on April 4 during the two-day General Assembly (GA) (April 4 – 5).
- SCAG would like to invite all TCWG members to register now and attend the GA, and join SCAG in celebrating this accomplishment as a region.
- SCAG thanks all partners for all of their help and efforts in the development of a truly RTP/SCS.

4.4 EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- The Conformity Restructuring Amendments Final Rule was published on March 14, 2012 and would become effective on April 13, 2012.
- EPA continued to work with involved air districts and ARB to revise the other ozone plans in SCAG region regarding taking credit from emission reductions outside a nonattainment area to meet the Reasonable Further Progress obligations.
- EPA would like to start a discussion about project list related to the highway sanction clock in Imperial County.
- EPA filed the Confidential Memorandum to the Court regarding mediation on the litigation with Imperial County.

4.5 ARB Update

Jason Crow, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB Board heard an informational update on SCAG SCS last Thursday and presumed no significant changes prior to the final adoption by the RC. There would be a letter from the ARB Executive Officer stating that SCAG SCS meets their SB375 targets.
- ARB staff continued working on implementation package for EMFAC2011 and EMFAC 2011 guidance for conformity analysis and PM hot-spot analysis.

4.6 Air Districts Update

No Update

4.7 Conformity SIP

Eyvonne Drummonds, SCAQMD, stated the following as the context for this item:

- SCAQMD submitted the Conformity SIP to EPA in 1998 but no EPA action has been taken. SCAQMD Governing Board would like to make sure the District's Transportation Conformity Rule reflect the current federal transportation conformity regulations.

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- The District is seeking advice on what to do with the submitted conformity SIP and then to restructure the rules as necessary. The expected timeline would be October 2012.

TCWG had an extensive discussion on a wide range of topics related to the Conformity SIP including background, requirements, process and timelines, rules vs. MOU/MOA, and EPA approved conformity SIPs outside SCAG region. An ad hoc conference call among SCAQMD, VCAPCD, SCAG, and other interested parties will be held in the next couple of weeks to further discussion and establish an initial process.

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

None

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on April 24, 2012 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.