



# TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

### Attendee List

#### **SCAG Staff:**

Banuelos, Ryan  
Calderon, Karen  
Lo, Nancy  
Luo, Rongsheng

#### **Via Zoom and Teleconference:**

Bade, Rabindra  
Carbajal, Joe  
Cooper, Keith  
Dorantes, Michael  
Galbreath, Holly  
Garfio, Angel  
Gaschot, Bertrand  
Getachew, Eleni  
Hendrawan, Kevin  
Huddleston, Lori  
Kalandiyur, Nesamani  
Kochaon, Anne  
Lay, Keith  
Lee, David  
Lee, Sang-Mi  
Lugaro, Julie  
Luna, Katie  
Masters, Martha  
Moran, Nohemi  
Morris, Michael  
Munoz, Erik  
O'Connor, Karina  
Shah, Amit  
Sutherland, Anders  
Tavitas, Rodney  
Vaca, Erika  
Wong, Alison  
Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans                      District 12  
Parsons  
ERP  
U.S. EPA                      Region 9  
Ventura County APCD (VCAPCD)  
OCTA  
Mojave Desert AQMD (MDAQMD)  
Impact Sciences  
CARB  
LA Metro, Long Range Planning  
California Air Resources Board (CARB)  
Parsons  
ICF  
Caltrans                      District 8  
South Coast AQMD  
Caltrans                      District 12  
ICTC  
RCTC  
SBCTA  
FHWA  
City of Los Angeles  
U.S. EPA                      Region 9  
Parsons  
Terry A Hayes Associates  
Caltrans                      Headquarters (HQ)  
Caltrans                      Headquarters (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 10:05 a.m.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR

#### 3.1. June 25, 2024 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

### 4. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- LAMIP103: TCWG concurred this is an exempt project.

#### 4.2. RTP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The draft Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 was released for a 30-day public review and comment period on July 12, 2024 through August 12, 2024 at 5 p.m. Comments should be submitted to Nancy Lo at [lo@scag.ca.gov](mailto:lo@scag.ca.gov).
- SCAG hosted two public hearings to solicit comments on July 23, 2024 at 6 p.m. and July 30, 2024 at 10 a.m. Details to register were available on SCAG's website.
- Staff would be presenting the proposed final Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024, including the associated proposed final transportation conformity analyses, to SCAG's Transportation Committee and Regional Council for their consideration to adopt on September 5, 2024 and then submit the adopted amendment to state and federal agencies. Final federal approval was anticipated in December 2024.

#### 4.3. FTIP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2023 FTIP Amendment No. 23-30 was submitted to Caltrans on July 16, 2024. SCAG received state approval on July 17, 2024. Final federal approval was pending.
- 2023 FTIP Administrative Modification No. 23-31 was approved on July 3, 2024.
- 2023 FTIP Administrative Modifications No. 23-32 was under review by SCAG staff and would be submitted to Caltrans by the end of July.
- Per Caltrans Local Assistance, an Emergency Administrative Modification No. 23-34 was submitted to Caltrans on July 17, 2024 in order to submit a Caltrans-STBG FTA Transfer.
- 2023 FTIP Amendment No. 25-01 would be submitted to Caltrans at the end of October 2024.
- The draft 2025 FTIP was released for a 30-day public comment period, in conjunction with the draft Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024. FTIP related comments should be submitted to Pablo Gutierrez at [gutierrez@scag.ca.gov](mailto:gutierrez@scag.ca.gov).
- Two public hearings discussed under Item 4.2 were also used to solicit comments on the draft 2025 FTIP.
- 2025 FTIP approval schedule followed that for Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 as reported under Item 4.2.

#### 4.4. EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- On July 9, 2024, EPA released the proposed Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the new source review program for the Mojave Desert AQMD. Public comment period would be open until August 23, 2024.



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## 4.4.1. Status Update on the SCAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 2:23-cv-02646)

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- On July 22, 2024 there was a joint South Coast AQMD, CARB, and EPA event in which all parties committed to continue making progress on reducing ozone in the South Coast Air Basin and bringing the area into attainment.
- The joint commitment was a result of multi-agency collaboration examining potential efforts to reduce emissions from aircrafts, locomotives, and ocean-going vessels.
- The signed joint statements and South Coast AQMD and CARB's withdrawal letters for the South Coast AQMD's Clean Air Act Section 182(e)(5) Contingency Measure Plan (CMP) for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard that EPA had proposed disapproval were posted on South Coast AQMD's website: <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-quality-management-plans/contingency-measure-plan-for-1997-ozone-standard>
- EPA had provided the withdrawal letters to the U.S. Department of Justice. The consent decree included language to support that EPA's obligations to take action on this CMP would be automatically terminated upon withdrawal.
- This ended the potential for highway sanctions in the SCAG region associated with the disapproval.
- In response to a question, EPA would not need to publish a final notice for the withdrawal in the Federal Register. EPA's submittal of withdrawal letters to the U.S. Department of Justice would end the consent decree with no further obligations for EPA.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, acknowledged the extraordinary efforts by FHWA, EPA, Caltrans Headquarters, and South Coast AQMD for fully resolving the EPA action. As a result, EPA did not need to take action to finalize the proposed disapproval. Therefore, no highway sanction clock, no highway sanction, no FIP, and no severe economic impacts. It was a tremendous effort involving strategic leadership and many staff from multiple agencies. SCAG staff thanked all the involved agencies and their staff, particularly acknowledging the point of contact staff from FHWA, EPA, Caltrans Headquarters, and South Coast AQMD for their diligent and effective interagency coordination efforts and significant contributions: FHWA: Michael Morris; EPA Region 9: Karina O'Connor and Michael Dorantes; Caltrans Headquarters: Rodney Tavitas; South Coast AQMD: Sarah Rees, Ian MacMillan, and Sang-Mi Lee.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, thanked FHWA and EPA for continued close collaboration, coordination, and partnership and also thanked SCAG for facilitating sharing of information and past experiences on highway sanctions from other MPOs in the state.

## 4.5. ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:

- CARB staff continued to develop the next version of EMFAC model, also known as EMFAC202Y.
- The alpha version of EMFAC202Y would be released in August 2024 for MPOs for testing purposes to review and provide feedback. CARB staff would share the link once it became available.
- The beta version would be released later this year.

### 4.5.1. Coachella Valley Ozone (75ppb) Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget Interagency Consultation

Kevin Hendrawan, CARB, reported the following:

- Development of Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget for transportation conformity process as part of the SIP was required by the federal Clean Air Act.
- The draft budget was developed using the U.S. EPA-approved EMFAC2021 and the adopted SCAG's 2020 RTP/SCS.
- CARB was soliciting comments and suggestions from TCWG by July 30, 2024.
- The draft budget would be released for public review and comments as part of the draft Coachella Valley Attainment Plan for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard. Comments on the draft budget could be submitted during



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the public comment period for the draft Plan.

## 4.6. Air Districts Updates

### 4.6.1. 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

Holly Galbreath, VCAPCD, reported no updates.

### 4.6.2. 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; Failure to Submit the Required 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter State Implementation Plan Elements for the South Coast Air Basin; Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter in the South Coast Air Basin; EPA Proposed Disapproval of the Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS in the South Coast Air Basin

Sang-Mi Lee, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- Regarding Rules 1106, 1106.1, and 1107, South Coast amended those rules to rectify the deficiencies in January 2023 and submitted the revised rules to EPA. EPA had not finalized the proposed disapproval; therefore, there was no active sanction clock associated with these rules.
- EPA proposed approval of amended Rule 1118 and interim final determination (IFD) to defer imposition of sanctions on March 8, 2024. The 30-day comment period ended April 8, 2024.
- Regarding the 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines, EPA proposed approval of amended Rules 463 and 1178 and IFD to defer imposition of sanctions on May 3, 2024.
- Regarding Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter, South Coast AQMD adopted the Plan on June 4, 2024 and was in the process of submitting to EPA through CARB. Sanction clocks were anticipated to be turned off soon.
- Regarding the Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, South Coast AQMD withdrew the Plan which mooted EPA's proposed disapproval as reported under Item 4.4. No sanction clock had been triggered.

### 4.6.3. 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; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, and 1305; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1157; and Proposed Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 401

Bertrand Gaschot, MDAQMD, reported the following:

- EPA proposed approval of amended Rule 315 and IFD to defer imposition of sanctions.



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4.6.3.1. Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)  
Bertrand Gaschot, MDAQMD, reported no updates.

4.6.4. 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 Final Limited Disapproval of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309  
No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.4.1. Status Update on the AVAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1614)  
No representative was present to provide updates.

## 5. INFORMATION SHARING

- Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans headquarters, shared that Caltrans headquarter would host a Conformity Training in San Diego on October 7 through October 9, 2024 and encouraged TCWG members to attend.
- Rodney Tavitas also noted that for the next round of transportation conformity determination analysis review, Caltrans would be asking additional questions on land use planning assumptions due to questions they had received.
- Karen Calderon, SCAG, reminded the TCWG that Lijin Sun would be out of office for part of August and requested PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the August TCWG meeting be emailed to Karen Calderon.
- Karen Calderon also announced that the September 24, 2024 TCWG meeting would be held in a virtual format only with no in-person attendance option.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting would be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 in-person, via Zoom, and by teleconference. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Karen Calderon, [calderon@scag.ca.gov](mailto:calderon@scag.ca.gov), by Tuesday, August 13, 2024.