



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2025

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 upon request.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Banuelos, Ryan
Calderon, Karen
Northfield, Shea
Sun, Lijin

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Bade, Rabindra
Becha, Karishma
Berge, Brent
Brugger, Ron
Calvert, Brian
Caraig, Ricardo
Castillo, Fredy
Cooper, Keith
Dietzler, Jeff
Espinosa Araiza, Erika
Gaschot, Bertrand
Gilbert, Julie
Hager, Mark
Hosford, Steve
Islam, Fatima
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Kang, Peter
Lay, Keith
Lee, David
Lewis, Nicole
Lods, Barbara
Lugaro, Julie
Marroquin, Nancy
Masters, Martha
Meneses, Mercedes
Moran, Nohemi
Morris, Michael
Odufalu, Olufemi
Quintero, Gustavo
Richmai, Michael
Tavitas, Rodney
Vaca, Erika
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew
Zureick, Andrea

Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
Caltrans District 11
LSA
ICF
Caltrans District 12
City of Corona
ERP
RCTC
Caltrans HQ
Mojave Desert AQMD
Compass Consulting
HDR Engineering, Inc.
CNS Engineers
Caltrans District 8
CARB
Caltrans HQ
ICF
Caltrans District 8
Caltrans HQ
Antelope Valley AQMD
Caltrans District 12
LA Metro
RCTC
LA Metro
SBCTA
FHWA
Caltrans District 8
RCTC - Bechtel
LA Metro
Caltrans HQ
Caltrans HQ
Caltrans District 7
Caltrans District 7
SBCTA



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Vanessa Schoenewald, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The Chair announced that due to recent actions at the federal level, U.S. EPA staff was not able to attend the January 28, 2025 TCWG meeting. Therefore, TCWG concurrences on Item 4.1 could not be provided at the meeting.

In response to questions, Rodney Tavitias, Caltrans HQ, noted that in accordance with the U.S. EPA Transportation Conformity Regulation Section 93.104 (d), projects that had previously received concurrence over three years ago would need to obtain TCWG reconcurrence due to a new conforming RTP/SCS such as SCAG's 2024 RTP/SCS (Connect SoCal 2024). He also stated that concurrence or reconcurrence must be provided at TCWG meetings, not via e-mails. The federal concurrence procedure remained the same in that U.S. EPA would provide their concurrence first followed by FHWA and/or Caltrans HQ concurrence(s), depending on whether the project is subject to either the 23 USC 327 MOU or the 23 USC 326 MOU.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. December 3, 2024 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Reviews of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms
- **Attachment 4.1-1: RIV160405:** no TCWG concurrence was provided at the meeting.
 - **Attachment 4.1-2: RIV170901:** no TCWG concurrence was provided at the meeting.
- 4.2. RTP Update
Shea Northfield, SCAG, reported no updates.
- 4.3. FTIP Update
Shea Northfield, SCAG, reported the following:
- SCAG staff was preparing 2025 FTIP Amendment #25-03 and would post it for public review and comments in the next few weeks.
 - 2025 FTIP Amendment #25-04 had a project submittal deadline of February 11, 2025.
- 4.4. U.S. EPA Update
No representative was present to provide updates.
- 4.5. CARB Update
Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:
- CARB staff continued to develop the EMFAC202Y model. The beta version was released for testing purposes in late 2024, with a finalized model and a public workshop planned around March 2025.
 - The EMFAC2021 model was the latest U.S. EPA-approved emissions model for transportation conformity purposes in California. CARB staff was working with air districts and MPOs to update the motor vehicle emissions budget using this model for some PM standards, which would likely be published in February 2025 and ready for interagency consultation with the TCWG.
 - In response to a question, Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported that the EMFAC 202Y model would not require CARB Board adoption. Once the model was finalized, it would be submitted to U.S. EPA for approval.



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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:

- U.S. EPA took a final action to approve elements of a SIP to meet Extreme nonattainment area requirements for the 1997 80 ppb 8-hour ozone NAAQS in Coachella Valley nonattainment area, specifically approving the reasonable further progress demonstration and the VMT offset demonstration. This final action would become effective on February 20, 2025.

4.6.3. Mojave Desert AQMD Update

Bertrand Gaschot, Mojave Desert AQMD, reported no updates.

4.6.3.1. Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)

Bertrand Gaschot, Mojave Desert AQMD, reported the following:

- The lawsuit was outstanding, and the related sanctions clocks continued to run.

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 the following:

- Antelope Valley AQMD Governing Board adopted the amended new sources rules (NSR) on December 30, 2024, to address the underlying issues of the sanctions clocks.
- The NSR package, which was expected to be approvable by U.S. EPA, was subsequently submitted to CARB and U.S. EPA for concurrent reviews and processing.
- U.S. EPA was expected to propose approval of the amended NSR, which would temporarily stay or defer sanctions clocks in the Antelope Valley area.

4.6.5. Imperial County APCD Update

No representative was present to provide updates.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ, reported that Caltrans was working on the Introduction to Conformity Training in Southern California. Additional information would be shared with the TCWG in the future.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 in-person, via Zoom, and by teleconference. It was requested PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting be submitted to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, February 11, 2025.