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

**December 3, 2019  
Minutes**

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**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**

Huddleston, Lori

Metro

**SCAG**

Asuncion, John

Calderon, Karen

Luo, Rongsheng

McAlpine, Shannon

**Via Teleconference**

Brugger, Ron

Arellano, Alexis

Kalandiyur, Nesamani

Lugaro, Julie

Mejia, James

Mortenson, Marilee

O'Conner, Karina

Sun, Lijin

Sutherland, Ander

Tavitas, Rodney

Tax, Wienke

Thompson, Natalie

LSA Associates

Caltrans Headquarters

ARB

Caltrans, District 12

SBCTA

Caltrans Headquarters

EPA Region 9

SCAQMD

Terry A. Hayes Associates

Caltrans Headquarters

EPA Region 9

AECOM

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION**

James Mejia, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

3.1. September 24, 2019 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG meeting.

3.2. October 22, 2019 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG meeting.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

**1) LAF7207**

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC (FHWA concurrence received after meeting).

**2) LA0G1562**

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC (TCWG concurrence received via email after meeting).

4.2 RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft Connect SoCal Plan was released November 7, 2019.
- Public comment period started November 14, 2019 and would end on January 24, 2020.
- Three public hearings were scheduled for December 3, 10, and 14, 2019.
- Public comments also were accepted through SCAG website, email, and mail.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis was released for public review as a technical report of Draft Connect SoCal. The report could be downloaded from

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SCAG's Connect SoCal website. All comments received would be documented and responded to.

- For Final Transportation Conformity Analysis, ARB's off-model adjustment factors would be applied to account for impact of federal SAFE Vehicles Rule Part One.
- Final Transportation Conformity Analysis was scheduled to be adopted as part of Final Connect SoCal by SCAG's Regional Council in early April.
- FHWA/FTA's final conformity determination would be needed by June 1, 2020.

4.3 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- In close collaboration with County Transportation Commissions, two 2019 FTIP Amendments and one 2019 FTIP Administrative Modification were approved in November.
- Project submittals for an additional 2019 FTIP Administrative Modification were due to SCAG December 3.
- SCAG staff would start analysis of 2021 FTIP after New Year 2020.

4.4 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, stated that she hoped to provide an update on proposed EPA actions on Ventura County and Coachella Valley's 2008 8-hour ozone standard SIPs in January 2020.

In response to a question, Karina O'Conner, EPA Region 9, confirmed that there were new transportation conformity budgets in both SIPs. Ms. O'Connor also anticipated EPA action on Imperial County's 2008 8-hour ozone standard SIP in next few months.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Conner confirmed that it was reasonable to assume that Ventura County and Coachella Valley's new ozone transportation conformity budgets would become effective by June 1, 2020.

In response to a questions, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, confirmed that these new ozone budgets were included in Draft Connect SoCal for information purposes only until they have been approved by EPA.

Ms. Tax noted that South Coast 2012 annual PM2.5 standard SIP might be only SIP in SCAG region that EPA would not complete a final action by June 1, 2020.

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---

In response to comment and question, Ms. O'Connor stated that EPA and FHWA were still discussing about next steps regarding ARB's off-model adjustment factors and thus did not have an update including about timing at this point.

4.5 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- Part I of SAFE Vehicles Rule became effective on November 26, 2019.
- ARB had developed off-model EMFAC adjustment factors to reflect criteria air pollutants (including ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM and CO) emission impact of the SAFE Rule which required replacement of zero-emission vehicles with gasoline vehicles after 2020. These adjustment factors had been released and also posted on ARB website.
- Off-model adjustment factors which are percentages of increased criteria pollutant emissions due to increased gasoline vehicles had been developed for both EMFAC2014 and EMFAC2017 for both regional and project-level conformity analysis.

In response to questions, Mr. Kalandiyur, ARB, stated that it was uncertain whether Part II of SAFE Vehicles Rule (expected to include vehicle GHG emission standards and CAFÉ fuel economy standards) would have impact on criteria air pollutant emissions; ARB's next steps included providing technical assistance on application of these adjustment factors to those who have questions, meeting with EPA staff on December 4 to walk through process and assumptions behind these adjustment factors, and reaching out to agencies to increase awareness of these adjustment factors; State Interagency Working Group led by ARB, CalSTA, and Caltrans held a statewide teleconference regarding SAFE Vehicles Rule on November 20 and was in process of reaching out to individual transportation agencies including SCAG.

4.6 Air Districts Update

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, reported that South Coast Draft Final Contingency Measure Ozone SIP was going to SCAQMD Governing Board for adoption on December 6.

In response to a question, Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, confirmed that EPA staff had been involved in development of the Draft Final Plan.

**5.0 INFORMATION SHARING**

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, expressed sincere thanks to and acknowledged James Mejia, SBCTA, for his commitment, services and contribution as TCWG Chair for calendar year 2019.

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**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at the SCAG main office in downtown Los Angeles.