Notice of Public Review Period

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Printed on Recycled Paper 559-1/4/05

Notice of Public Availability of Draft 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Determination

Date: January 18, 2005

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

The Southern California Association of Governments has prepared a draft conformity determination for the 8-hour ozone standard for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The new 8-hour ozone standard established by the US EPA necessitates new conformity determinations by June 15, 2005. The conformity determinations in the attached packet, based on the existing one-hour conformity determinations for the RTP and RTIP, also include supplemental regional emissions analysis for the new attainment years in the Coachella Valley portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) (2013) and the South Coast Air Basin (2021). The 8-hour determination refines the conformity findings for the Southeast Desert Modified area to reflect the two new 8-hour ozone non-attainment areas, the Western Portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and the Coachella Valley portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). A draft conformity determination for the Searles Valley planning area is also included. In summary, all of the additional analyses are consistent with the applicable budgets and emissions tests. Additionally, information on the impact of growth visioning in the 2004 RTP is presented.

This letter marks the beginning of the 30-day public review period for this determination, and SCAG welcomes comments from members of the public beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2005. The closing date for the receipt of public comments will be Friday, February 18, 2005. SCAG will hold a public hearing on February 3, 2005 at SCAG's offices. The Energy and Environment Committee is scheduled to recommend approval of the conformity determination to the SCAG Regional Council (RC) on March 3, 2005. Upon approval by the RC on that same date, SCAG will send the 8-hour conformity determination to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Please forward your comments to Michael Gainor at gainor@scag.ca.gov, or at the address shown above.

Sincerely,

Hasan Ikhrata, Director
Planning and Policy