



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

P9081
TJY

January 15, 1997

David H. Densmore, Division Administrator
FHWA Program Development Office
California Division
980 9th Street - Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814-2724

Dear Mr. Densmore:

Thank you for your letter of November 5, 1996 inviting EPA to be a cooperating agency on the State Route 78/111 Brawley Bypass project. Unfortunately, we must decline your invitation. While we understand your desire to include EPA in this project, from a resource and logistical standpoint it is impossible to enter into such an agreement at this time.

We will continue to participate through the scoping process and if it is necessary, through the NEPA/404 Integration MOU. On November 25, 1996 we sent comments to FHWA on the Notice of Intent. Please refer to those comments throughout the project development stages since they were provided to give FHWA direction on addressing environmental impacts that are of concern to our agency. We will also provide comments and advisory suggestions pursuant to NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate your consideration of our agency in your request and look forward to working with you further on this project, albeit not as a cooperating agency.

Sincerely,

David J. Farrel, Chief
Office of Federal Activities