Appendix L

Project-level Air Quality Conformity Determination from FHWA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA. 95814

August 20, 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
File # 12-ORA-05PM 9.36/9.88
and 12-ORA-74-PM-0.0/.20
EA # OE3100
Document # P58621

Cindy Quon, Division Administrator
California Department of Transportation
District 12
3337 Michelson Drive, Suite 380
Irvine, CA 92612-8894

Attention: Reza Aurasteh, Branch Chief, Environmental Engineering

Dear Mr. Aurasteh:

SUBJECT: Project Level Conformity Determination for I-5/SR-74 (Ortega Highway) Interchange Improvement Project

On August 15, 2008, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) a request for a project level conformity determination for the Interstate 5 (I-5), State Route 74 (SR-74, Ortega Highway) Interchange Improvement Project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327(a)(2)(B)(ii)(1). The project is in an area that is designated Nonattainment or Maintenance for Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter (PM_{10}), and Fine Particle Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

The project level conformity analysis submitted by Caltrans indicates that the transportation conformity requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 93 have been met. The project is included in the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) currently conforming *2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP),* and the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).* The current conformity determinations for the RTP and RTIP were approved by FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on June 5, 2008. The design concept and scope of the preferred alternative have not changed significantly from those assumed in the regional emissions analysis.

As required by 40 C.F.R. 93.116 and 93.123, the localized CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ analyses are included in the documentation. The CO hotspot analysis was performed with the Caltrans' *Transportation Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol.* The analyses demonstrate that the

MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

project will not create any new violation of the standards or increase the severity or number of existing violations.

Based on the information provided, FHWA finds that the Conformity Determination for the Interstate 5 (I-5), State Route 74 (SR-74, Ortega Highway) Interchange Improvement Project conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 93.

If you have any questions pertaining to this conformity finding, please contact Aimee Kratovil, FHWA Air Quality Specialist, at (916) 498-5866.

Sincerely,

/s/ K. Sue Kiser

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator

cc: (email)
Mike Brady, Caltrans
Steve Luxenberg, FHWA
Ahmed Abou-Abou, Caltrans
Arman Behtash, Caltrans

AKratovil/ac