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Darnall W. Reynolds
Caltrans, District Division Chief
Division of Planning
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

RE: 101 HOV Gap Closure Project --Air Quality Conformity Analysis

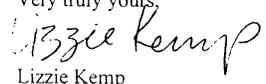
Dear Mr. Reynolds:

MTC staff has reviewed Caltrans' Air Quality Impact Report for the Route 101 HOV Gap Closure Project in Marin County and does not find it to be in conformance with MTC Resolution No. 2270.

We have determined that the data used in the analysis is not the most current data available. MTC Resolution No. 2270, which outlines Air Quality Conformity Analysis requirements for the MTC region, states that travel demand forecasts must be consistent with the current TIP and RTP, which use 2005 and 2015 forecast years. Similarly, the resolution also requires use of the most current ABAG Projections data available, in this case, Projections 1996. The forecasts in this CO analysis use 2010 and 2020 horizon years and are based on older ABAG data, and therefore are not consistent with the requirements of Resolution 2270.

The analysis needs to be updated to meet the requirements of Resolution 2270. Please note that MTC's formal acceptance of an air quality impact report occurs at the time that project review is completed, and that the currency of data used will be reassessed at that time. With that in mind, Caltrans may want to defer updating this document until shortly before it requests MTC project review. Since this normally occurs after the environmental document has been certified, release of the DEIR need not be delayed as a result of this request.

Please feel free to call me at (510) 464-7804 or Doug Kinnsey at (510) 464-7794 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Lizzie Kemp
Marin County Liaison

cc: Ken Van Velsor, Caltrans Environmental Engineering
Art Brook, Marin County CMA