



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA. 95814
October 8, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
File #: Noise
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Mr. Randall Iwasaki, Acting Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Gary Winters

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2004

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Iwasaki:

SUBJECT: Implementation of the FHWA Traffic Noise Model (Version 2.5)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates the California Department of Transportation's (Department) technical comments regarding the implementation of the *FHWA Traffic Noise Model* (Version 2.5). We have forwarded a copy of your August 25, 2004, letter to Mr. Robert Armstrong at the FHWA Office of Natural & Human Environment. Mr. Armstrong participated in the development of the *FHWA Traffic Noise Model* (*FHWA TNM*) and is currently the senior technical expert for noise issues for the FHWA. It is likely that the technical issues noted by the Department will be addressed in future versions of the *FHWA TNM*.

The actual "required use" date for the *FHWA TNM* will be the effective date of the final rule, now being developed through the regulatory process, 23 CFR 772, in the Federal Register. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NRPM) was published August 20, 2004. Comments are due not later than October 19, 2004. The FHWA must then develop and publish a final rule. The effective date of the final rule is normally thirty (30) days subsequent to its publication. It is likely that the required use of the *FHWA TNM* will be closer to January 15, 2005, rather than October 15, 2004, as originally indicated in our April 16, 2004, correspondence regarding implementation of the *FHWA TNM*.

The Department has requested a revised implementation date of January 15, 2005, for the *FHWA TNM* in order to provide supplementary training in the revised model. Following discussions with the FHWA Office of Natural & Human Environment, the FHWA has determined that the proposed implementation date of January 15, 2005, is acceptable.

The *FHWA TNM*, Version 2.5 (or the latest version), requirement does not apply to traffic noise analyses currently in progress, nor to traffic noise analyses that will be substantially complete on or before January 15, 2005. Traffic noise analyses begun for current projects utilizing either the *FHWA Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model* or the *FHWA TNM* should continue to use the same model throughout the life of the project.

We look forward to working with your staff during the implementation process to ensure a smooth transition. Please contact Stephanie Stoermer, Environmental Program Coordinator, at (916) 498-5057 or by e-mail at Stephanie.Stoermer@fhwa.dot.gov, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene K. Fong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator