



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
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Sacramento, CA. 95814-4708
October 6, 2005

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Rachel Falsetti, Transportation Programming, MS-82

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: FY 2004/05 FSTIP Amendment No. 7 & 8 – Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of Amendments No. 7 & 8 to the MCAG's 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated August 24, 2005. MCAG adopted these amendments with Resolution No. 2005/07-21-02 on July 21, 2005, and Resolution No. 2005/07-21-03 on July 21, 2005 approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the MCAG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

These amendments were requested by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to modify a CNG bus purchase project, and a CNG Shop upgrade project in Merced County (MPO ID # TJ020 and TJ007) that are both funded from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, and to modify the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Minor A grouped listing project (MPO ID # CT001), programming a total of \$1,560,000 in Fiscal Year 2005/06.

We accept these amendments in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that these amendments were developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that changes made to the MCAG FTIP by these amendments are for project types within Table 2 & 3 – Exempt Projects, of 40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127, and are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP). Approval of Amendment 7 does not constitute an eligibility determination for the projects from this amendment that are funded from the CMAQ program.

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region IX office of the FTA in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding between the FHWA, California Division, and the FTA, Region IX dated July 15, 2004, on Roles and Responsibilities for Multi-mode Amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the MCAG's FTIP Amendments No. 7 & 8 into California's 2004/05 – 2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Leigh Levine of the FHWA, California Division office at (916) 498-5034, or Mr. Ted Matley of the FTA, Region IX office at (415) 744-2590.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration



For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration