



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

August 19, 2011

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Jesse Brown, Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments
369 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Acting Caltrans Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, M.S. 82
For Rachel Falsetti, Division of Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Brown and Mr. Dougherty:

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP Amendment # 7 and Associated Air Quality
Conformity Determination

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 7 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) 2010/11-2013/14 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the accompanying required Air Quality Conformity Determination that was submitted by your letter dated July 27, 2011. MCAG approved Amendment # 7 to the 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination on July 21, 2011. This amendment to MCAG's FTIP:

- Revises existing projects in the MCAG region from the State Transportation Improvement Program and local transportation funds. To reprogram these projects in the FTIP, a new air quality conformity determination and new regional emissions analysis is included with this amendment.

Pursuant to the July 15, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2010/11 – 2013/14 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the MCAG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the February 14, 2007 Federal Register. We find that MCAG's 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP through Amendment # 7 was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out

in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Section 6001 of Public Law 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

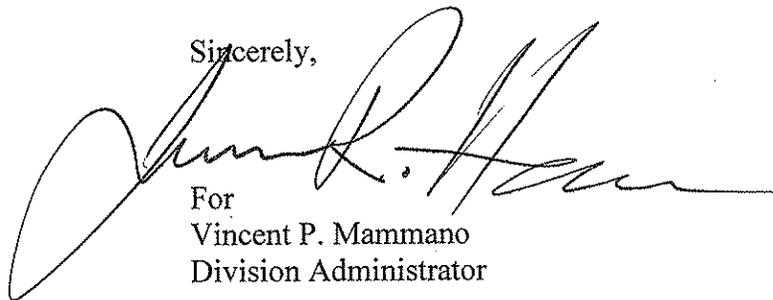
This amendment acceptance is pursuant to a joint FHWA and FTA air quality conformity determination for the amended MCAG FY 2010/11 – 2013/14 FTIP. This joint FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination for the amended MCAG FY 2010/11 - 2013/14 FTIP is required by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Transportation Conformity Rule, 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93, and the FHWA/FTA Metropolitan Planning Regulations, 23 CFR Part 450.

This finding has been coordinated with EPA Region 9 in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that MCAG's 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP through Amendment # 7 conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination for CMAQ projects or any other project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this MCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Scott Carson (Scott.Carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent P. Mammano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "M".

For
Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator

cc: (e-mail)

Ray Sukys, FTA

Eric Eidlin, FTA

Lima Huy, Caltrans HQ

Marjie Kim, MCAG

Matt Fell, MCAG

Ty Phimmasone, MCAG

Karina O'Connor, EPA

Cari Anderson, CA Consulting

cc: (other)

MCAG FTIP Binder

SCarson/km