U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

California Division

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December 31, 2015

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Ahron Hakimi
Executive Director
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street #300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

SUBJECT: Amendment # 12 to the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the 2015 Conformity Analysis for the 2008 Ozone and 2012 PM2.5 Standards

Dear Mr. Hakimi:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the Kern Council of Government's (KCOG) Amendment # 12 to the 2015 FTIP and the corresponding conformity analysis for the 2008 Ozone and 2012 PM2.5 Standards. In March 2015, a conformity rule with a new attainment year of 2031 was published, thus triggering a need for KCOG to conduct a conformity analysis of its 2014 RTP and 2015 FTIP as amended.

On October 19, 2015, KCOG adopted Amendment # 12 to the 2015 FTIP and the corresponding conformity analysis for 2008 Ozone and 2012 PM 2.5 Standards. On October 23, 2015, Caltrans approved Amendment # 12 to the 2015 FTIP and forwarded it to FHWA/FTA for approval. This amendment to KCOG's FTIP:

- Modifies an individual project in Kern County. The project includes funding from the State Transportation Improvement Program, State Bond, and High Priority Program.

The conformity analysis submitted to FHWA and FTA by KCOG indicates that all air quality conformity requirements have been met, including those for the 2008 8-hour Ozone and 2012 PM2.5 Standards. Based on our review, we find that the 2014 RTP and 2015 FTIP, as amended, conform to the applicable state implementation plan (SIP) in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93.

In addition, the amendment process for the RTP and FTIP amendments fulfills all statewide and metropolitan planning requirements outlined in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. In accordance with the December 15, 2014 *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, the FTA has concurred with this conformity determination and FTIP amendment. Additionally, this approval was made after consultation with the EPA, Region 9 office, pursuant to the Transportation Conformity Rule.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval, please contact Scott Carson (scott.carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029 or Hymie Luden (hymie.luden@dot.gov) of the FTA Region IX office at (415) 744-2732.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration