U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

California Division

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

April 28, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Bruce de Terra
Chief, Division of Transportation Programming, MS 82
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: KCOG FY 2015 - 2018 FTIP Amendment # 16

Dear Mr. de Terra:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 16 to the Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) FY 2015 - 2018 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated March 23, 2016. KCOG adopted Amendment # 16 on March 21, 2016. This amendment to KCOG's FTIP:

- Adds grouped and individual projects in Kern County. Funding sources include the Regional Surface Transportation Program, Recreational Trails Program, and local funds.

Pursuant to the December 15, 2014, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX,* we accept the modifications to the 2014/15 – 2017/18 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the KCOG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the February 14, 2007 Federal Register. We find that the KCOG's FTIP, through Amendment # 16, 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. 174, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

We have determined that this program modification is exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This approval is provided with the understanding 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 KCOG FSTIP amendment, please contact Scott Carson (scott.carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029.

Sincerely,

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration