U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

California Division

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Sacramento, CA 95814
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June 9, 2015

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

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

Attn: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2015-2018 FTIP Amendment # 4

Dear Mr. de Terra:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 4 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) FY 2015-2018 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated May 20, 2015. MCAG adopted Amendment # 4 on May 14, 2015. This amendment to MCAG's FTIP:

- Adds a new Section 130 Grade Crossing Project to the Grouped Projects for Railroad/Highway Crossing in the MCAG region funded from the federal highway crossing program.

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 2015 – 2018 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for the MCAG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the February 17, 2007 Federal Register. We find that the MCAG's FTIP, through Amendment # 4, 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 Sections 1201, 1202, 20005 and 20006 of Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress is the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

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 the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FTIP 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 FTIP amendment, please contact Cecilia Crenshaw (cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5033.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration