U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

California Division

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

April 26, 2018

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

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

Attn: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) 2017 FTIP Amendment # 14

Dear Mr. De Terra:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 14 to the Kern County Association of Governments (KCOG) 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated April 6, 2018. KCOG adopted Amendment # 14 on March 19, 2018. This amendment to KCOG's FTIP:

- Modifies projects and adds new projects in the KCOG region. Funding sources include the Regional Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and FTA 5307.

Pursuant to the February 14, 2018, *Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX,* we accept the modifications to the 2017 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 May 27, 2016 Federal Register.

We find that the KCOG's FTIP, through Amendment # 14, 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 Public Law 114-94, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST).

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 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 KCOG FSTIP amendment, please contact Scott Carson (scott.carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029 or Jerome Wiggins (Jerome.wiggins@dot.gov) of the FTA Region IX office at (415) 734-9490.

/s/ Edward Carranza

Edward Carranza
Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Scott Carson
Transportation Planner
Federal Highway Administration