
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**September 24, 2019
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance

Huddleston, Lori

Metro

SCAG

Asuncion, John

Luo, Rongsheng

Via Teleconference

Brugger, Ron

LSA

Cacatian, Ben

VCAPCD

Gallo, Ilene

Caltrans, District 11

Kalandiyur, Nesamani

ARB

Lee, David

Caltrans, District 8

O'Conner, Karina

EPA Region 9

Perez, Marlana

Michael Baker International

Rodriguez, Tricia

Michael Baker International

Sanchez, Lucas

Caltrans Headquarters

Silverman, Sam

Terry A. Hayes Associates

Spangler, Derek

Michael Baker International

Sun, Lijin

SCAQMD

Sutherland, Anders

Terry A. Hayes Associates

Tavitas, Rodney

Caltrans Headquarters

Vaughn, Joseph

FHWA

Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am on behalf of TCWG Chair.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. August 27, 2019 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms
1) LA0G1679
It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

- 4.2 RTP Update
John Asuncion, SCAG, reported that Draft Connect SoCal was still on schedule for public release in early November 2019.

In response to questions, Mr. Asuncion, SCAG, confirmed that there would be an opportunity to make minor scope change to projects in Draft Connect SoCal and the dates would be reported when available.

- 4.3 FTIP Update
Mr. Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:
- Final 2021 FTIP Guidelines were adopted by SCAG Regional Council in early September.
 - Projects submissions from County Transportation Commissions to SCAG were expected in early January 2020.
 - Final 2021 FTIP was expected to receive all approvals by December 2020.

- 4.4 EPA Update
Karina O’Conner, EPA Region 9, reported the following:
- On August 29, 2019, EPA signed a final rule to approve ozone SIPs portion of 2016 South Coast AQMP and the final rule was anticipated to be published soon.

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- EPA had released a new version of AERMOD air quality dispersion model updated with new R-LINE features to account for how concentrations of air quality are affected by barriers. Some of these features can be used for transportation conformity purposes only with EPA approval and some of these features cannot be used for regulatory purposes at this time.
- Part I of Final SAFE Vehicles Rule was released on September 19 and includes revocation of federal Clean Air Act preemption waiver granted to California in 2013. The rule would become effective 60 days after publication in Federal Register. EPA staff did not have answers to how the rule will affect SIPs or transportation conformity and was gathering questions in coordination with Caltrans and FHWA staff.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, noted that he would forward all questions that Caltrans staff had gathered to EPA, FHWA, and MPOs upon publication of the Part I rule.

In response to concern about short effective period of 60 days upon publication, O'Connor, EPA Region 9, stated that such concern had been forwarded to EPA Headquarters before release of Part I rule.

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, stated that SAFE rule would have impacts on EMFAC models but ARB staff did not know full implication or effect on EMFAC models of SAFE rule until Part II is finalized with specific vehicle fuel economy and GHG emissions standards.

Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, confirmed that 60-day is effective date, not grace period, of SAFE rule and the rule's implication on use of EMFAC models was not known at this point.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, noted that current conformity determination for SCAG's 2016 RTP/SCS and 2019 FTIP is effective until June 2020; EMFAC2014 and EMFAC2017 were previously approved by EPA and thus presumed to remain valid at least until SAFE rule becomes effective; and whether EMFAC models could be used and for how long afterwards would be determined by EPA.

In response to questions, Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, stated that all highway sanction clocks in SCAG region had been turned off; EPA's withdrawal of Clean Air Act preemption waiver was not disapproval of ARB's Advanced Clean Car (ACC) Regulations and did not have any associated sanction clocks; and it would be added to list of questions whether EPA needs to disapprove ACC Regulations.

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4.5 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported that ARB would hold first whole day public workshop, also available through webinar, on October 2, 2019 for next EMFAC model update (EMFAC202x), and notice of public workshop had been distributed.

In response to a question, Mr. Kalandiyur, ARB, confirmed that ARB planned to form a working group including transportation agencies and MPOs in California to discuss about implications of SAFE rule but no specific meeting dates and times yet.

In response to a question, Joseph Vaughn, FHWA, stated that FHWA staff was also trying to figure out implications of SAFE rule.

4.6 Air Districts Update

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, announced that there would be an AQMP Advisory Group meeting about Draft Contingency Measure Plan for 1997 8-hour ozone standard at SCAQMD office in Diamond Bar on October 9, 2019, 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

None.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at the SCAG main office in downtown Los Angeles.