



Public Notice Air Quality Conformity

Public Notice of Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the I-5 Managed Lanes Project (Red Hill Avenue to Orange County/Los Angeles County Line)



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 12 is proposing managed lanes improvements in both directions on Interstate (I) 5. The improvements would modify the existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes within the proposed Project limits to address HOV lane degradation and operational deficiencies. The proposed Project limits on I-5 extend from Red Hill Avenue (Post Mile [PM] 28.9) to the Orange County/Los Angeles (OC/LA) County line (12-ORA-5 PM 44.4) in the cities of Irvine, Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, Anaheim, Fullerton, Buena Park, La Mirada, and Santa Fe Springs and include implementing associated signage (including advance signage on adjacent arterials) and tolling infrastructure.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Air Quality Conformity requirements apply only in nonattainment and "maintenance" (former nonattainment) areas for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and only for the specific NAAQS that are or were violated. United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 93 govern the conformity process. Conformity requirements do not apply in unclassifiable/attainment areas for NAAQS and do not apply at all for State standards regardless of the status of the area. The Project Area is within an attainment/maintenance area for federal CO standards, a nonattainment area for federal PM_{2.5} standards, and an attainment/maintenance area for federal PM₁₀ standards. Therefore, a project-level air quality conformity analysis was required. The report that explains these findings was part of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) and was made available during the public review and comment period from June 5, 2023 to July 20, 2023.

Not a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC)

The project-level air quality conformity analysis conducted for the proposed Project shows that the Project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (**PM10** and **PM2.5**) and carbon monoxide (**CO**) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This Project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (**PM10** and **PM2.5**) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed **PM10** and **PM2.5** hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The Project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). On January 24, 2023, the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) [includes federal (USEPA, FHWA, and FTA), State (CARB and Caltrans), regional (air quality management districts and SCAG), and sub-regional (county transportation commissions) agencies and other stakeholders] confirmed that all build alternatives of the proposed I-5 Managed Lanes Project (Red Hill Ave to Orange / Los Angeles County Line) (ORA210604) are not a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC)..

CONTACT?

For information regarding the proposed Project, call Caltrans at (657) 328-6000 or email at I-5ManagedLanesProject@dot.ca.gov email address and use "I-5 Managed Lanes Project AQ Conformity" as the subject line]. To request alternative accommodations for accessing project information or for providing a comment, please contact the Caltrans District 12 Public Information Office at (657) 328-6000. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service Line at 1 (800) 735-2929 or the Voice Line at 1(800) 735-2922.