

**Statewide Conformity Working Group
May 17, 2017**

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Meeting Start Time: 9:00 am

Meeting End Time: 10:30 am

Federal Updates Including:

FHWA

- **Attendees:**
 - Joseph Vaughn
 - Wade Hobbs

- **Staff updates**
 - Tashia Clemons - New Director of Program Development ENV/ROW/Planning
 - Paul Schneider - New Chief Operating Officer (COO)
 - Stew Sonnenburg & Scott Carson - assigned to the Valley
 - Michael Morris - assigned to Cal South
 - Cecilia Crenshaw & Wade Hobbs - assigned to all other areas

- **Overview of the Interagency Consultation & Transportation Conformity Process**
 - Wade Hobbs - presented an overview of the IAC Process - The conformity rule requires that Federal, State, and local transportation and air quality agencies establish formal procedures to ensure interagency coordination on critical issues. Air Quality agencies establish formal procedures to ensure interagency coordination on critical issues. Typical participants in interagency consultation include FHWA, FTA, EPA, State DOTs, MPOs and other local transportation agencies, and State and regional air quality agencies. In addition, public transportation operators are often active participants in interagency consultation. Interagency consultation is a forum for discussing key assumptions to be used in conformity analyses, strategies to reduce mobile source emissions, specific impacts of major projects, issues associated with travel demand and emissions modeling, and the development of MVEBs. The specific process that will be followed in each area must be adopted as part of the SIP and must be used to develop metropolitan transportation plans, TIPs, and the SIP. These adopted interagency consultation procedures are included in the “conformity SIP.”
 - Wade Hobbs - presented an overview of Project Level Conformity - A Basic Guide for State & Local Officials.
 - ****Action item ==> Caltrans will Post Link to Transportation Conformity for elected. Please see the link below:**

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/air_quality/conformity/2017_guide/fhwahep17034.pdf

- **Changes in Planning Regulation or Funding (No Comments).**

The New joint Planning Regulations are expected to be effective on 6/27/2016. The CMAQ FHWA Final Rule was struck down, but still will be posted online on some sites as codified. Recommend going to Federal Reg. on May 27th.

EPA

- **Attendees:**

- Karina O'Connor

- **Staff updates**

- Vacant - Regional Administrator
- Vacant - Region 9 Chief
- Several acting positions: Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator
Deborah Jordan, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
Air Division – Elizabeth Adams, Acting Director

- **Designations/Reclassifications/Clean Data Findings Adequacy/EPA Plan Actions**

- Deliberations are still taking place.
There are many findings, since last meeting in July 2015 & May 2016.
- There is no indicated time frame for Ozone designations.
- PM2.5 - For 2006 PM2.5
- The development of state implementation plans (SIPs) to demonstrate attainment with the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS. In 2006, the 24-hour PM2.5 standard was strengthened from a level of 65 ug/m³ to a level of 35 ug/m³. The level of the annual standard remained unchanged at 15 ug/m³. The designation of 31 nonattainment areas for the 24-hour standard became effective on December 14, 2009, and SIPs for these areas are due no later than three years from the effective date of designation, by December 14, 2012.
- San Joaquin Valley reclassifies area as Serious

- **Future Anticipated Findings**

- May 2016 – New EMFAC2014 budgets
 - South Coast - disapproval working with ARB to resolve completeness findings for SIP
 - 2008 Ozone Conformity Requirements
 - Portola Ozone Plan
 - Coachella Valley Ozone Plan
 - Mohave Desert Ozone Plan

- **Sanction Clocks**

- Most Sanction clocks in CA are for 2008 Ozone.
- No Sanction Clocks for 2017 - No highways for 2017, so expect clocks to turn off (due to disapprovals & failure to submit)

ARB Updates Including:

- **Attendees:**
 - Dennis Wade
- No Staff Updates
- **EMFAC Updates**
 - Updated EMFAC2014 public workshop information will be shared on June 1, 2017.
 - ****Action Item ==> Dennis Wade will provide information and Caltrans will post on Statewide Conformity Working Group website. Please see the link below:**
[JUNE 1, 2017 PUBLIC WEBINAR WORKSHOP ON UPDATES TO ARB'S EMFAC2017 MODEL](#)
- **Transportation Conformity SIP Update**
 - Mobile Source Strategy
 - The Board has directed Staff to develop Berth Regulations for indirect source rule regulations for 2030 (trucks intend to develop & enforce vehicle technologies). The requirements Rule will have to go through consultation requirements. Until the rule is updated follow the rules that apply.

CALTRANS Updates Including:

- **Attendees:**
 - Marilee Mortenson - HQ
 - Rodney Tavitas - HQ
 - Shalanda Christian - HQ
 - Terry Goewert - District 6
 - Andrew Yoon - District 7
- **Staff Updates**
 - Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP)
 - Chris Schmidt - New Division Chief
 - Shalanda Christian – Air Quality Specialist
 - Kevin Ngyendo - Transferred from Air Quality to another Planning unit
 - Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA)
 - Phil Stolarski - New Division Chief
 - Shaila Chowdry – Promoted to Chief of Environmental Engineering
 - Mauricio Serrano – New Branch Chief (Air, Noise, Haz. Waste, & Paleo)
 - Yoojoong Choi – Air Quality Specialist
 - Khanh Vu – Air Quality Specialist
- **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)**
 - HSIP funding alone does not mean that a project is exempt.

- Measure R & Measure M projects. SCAG & LA Metro wants to know if we can streamline the process? Measure dollars are in the billions, but can be a huge burden on cities with smaller staff and local agencies. Typically, projects take about a month to go through the process.
- This topic will be addressed later in a meeting between CALTRANS, EPA, & FHWA.
- Progress & Tools from the Mare Island Group.
 - Marilee Mortenson – offered a communication & educational Tool.
 - Karina O’Connor (EPA) – Elaborated on the Mare Island group.
 - Action item ==> Caltrans will post a copy of the mare Island fact sheet on the Statewide Conformity Working Group website (Handouts). Please see the link below:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/air/state_cwg/CWGindex.htm

Status of Transportation & Air Quality Planning

- **MOPO/Air District Updates**
 - San Diego/SANDAG
 - RTP (Fall 2019)
 - 2016 TIP approval
 - Regional Plan (Oct. 2015)
 - South Coast /SCAG/Coachella. Imperial, Ventura, Mojave
 - Conformity for 2016 RTP/SCS (2nd Amend 2016 RTP)
 - Bay Area/MTC
 - Air District approved Clean Air Plan for criteria poll & GHG
 - New conformity analysis with approval this fall.
 - Deals with Clean Air & Climate Change
 - MTC regional Trans Plan 5/3/2017 (Public Comment Approval)
 - Moved to a new location
 - Sacramento/SACOG
 - Last conformity in 2016
 - Conformity 2017 FTP - Nothing expect/No new conformity for until 2019
 - Finalized conformity budget
 - Will request adequacy review.
 - San Joaquin/SJCOG
 - Staff Changes - Ryan Niblack & Melody Lin are helping Alex
 - Tanisha Taylor left SJCOG and went to CALCOG
 - Adopted 2019 TIP – District is working with ARB on the PM10 maintenance Plan
 - Working on the 2015 Ozone Plan/standards
 - Butte/BCAG
 - Regional Plan – FTP/RTP Updated PM2.5
 - San Luis Obispo/SLOCOG
 - 2019 RTP Adoption
 - Santa Barbara/SBCAG
 - Conformity determination may not be necessary.

- Bay Area/MTC
 - Most of California will go to attainment unclassified for Carbon Monoxide (CO) (except for South Coast)
 - By 2019 – no more CO Protocol for Regional Conformity.
 - EPA will confirm that CO analysis is not needed at the project level.

Information Sharing

- **Open Discussion**
 - **District 11 – Eileen - introduction**
- **Next Meeting TBD**
 - **Shalanda Christian announced that the next meeting will be scheduled around mid to late October 2017.**

Meeting Adjourned