

PROJECT-LEVEL CONFORMITY PROCESS

(ADA version of flowchart)

Overall Project-Level Conformity Process

Step 1

Is the Project Area subject to conformity? [See Caltrans website for conformity map](#)

- **YES:** Go to Step 2
- **NO:** Conformity does not apply. Document attainment status in the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist. Process complete.

Step 2

Is the project exempt from conformity? (40 CFR 93.126, 128)

- **YES:** Document exemption type in the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist. Complete checklist items as needed. Process complete.
- **NO:** Go to Step 3

Step 3

Is the project exempt from Regional Analysis? (40 CFR 93.127)

- **YES:** Go to Step 5
- **NO:** Go to Step 4

Step 4

Based on Interagency Consultation, is the project Regionally Significant **and** is the project located in a CO, PM10, or PM2.5 area?

- **YES:** Go to Step 5
- **NO:** Document Regional Conformity. Proceed to the Regional Conformity Process.

Step 5

Based on Interagency Consultation concurrence, is a Conformity Hot Spot Analysis needed (in CO, PM10, PM2.5 areas)?

- **YES:** Proceed to the CO Protocol.
- **NO:** Document exemption type in the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist. Complete checklist items as needed. Process complete.

Step 6

Once the Regional Conformity Process and/or CO Protocol have been completed, the Conformity Analysis and Documentation is complete.



CO Protocol

Step 1

Is the project in a CO nonattainment or maintenance area?

- **YES:** Perform CO Hot Spot Analysis (CO Protocol or 40 CFR 93.116 & 123). Document procedures used, which screening steps apply to the project, modeling results (if done), and lack of hot spot. Once complete, proceed to Step 2
- **NO:** Go to Step 2

Step 2

Is the project in a PM10 or PM2.5 nonattainment or maintenance area?

- **YES:** Go to Step 3
- **NO:** Hot Spot Assessment complete. Return to Step 6 of the Overall Project-Level Conformity Process.

Step 3

Is the project a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) (EPA Guidance)?

- **YES:** Go to Step 4
- **NO:** Document reasons why it is not a POAQC and prepare Interagency Consultation review form or memo. Once complete, proceed to Step 5.

Step 4

Prepare Hot Spot Analysis (EPA Guidance; 40 CFR 93.116, 123). Once complete, proceed to Step 5.

Step 5

Request Regional Interagency Consultation regarding Not-POAQC determination or Hot Spot Analysis.

For FONSI and EIS projects, after obtaining Interagency Consultation concurrence, carry out public notice and comment process (combine with NEPA comment process, if possible).

Summarize and respond in writing to public comments. Once complete, proceed to Step 6.

Step 6

Document consultation process and results.

List PM10 or PM2.5 control measures in approved SIP, if applicable to project, and make written commitment. List CO, PM measures relied on for regional conformity, if any, and make written commitment to implement. List PM10 or PM2.5 control measures in NEPA document and make written commitment (40 CFR 93.117, 125). Once complete, proceed to Step 7.

Step 7

Hot Spot Assessment is complete. Return to Step 6 of the Overall Project-Level Conformity Process.

Document Regional Conformity

Step 1

Is the project in an MPO or non-MPO area?

- **MPO:** Go to Step 3
- **NON-MPO:** Go to Step 2

Step 2

Is the non-MPO area an “Isolated Rural” or “Donut” type?

- **ISOLATED RURAL:** Carry out project-level regional analysis (40 CFR 93.109 [g]). Interagency Consultation is required based on 40 CFR 93.105, Consultation MOA, or approved Conformity SIP. Public review is required, consistent with NEPA or RTP public review procedures, or Conformity SIP, if applicable.
- **DONUT:** Go to Step 3

Step 3

Are the RTP and TIP (TIP alone in “donut” area) currently conforming?

- **YES:** Go to Step 4
- **NO:** Project cannot be approved.

Step 4

Is the project listed in the RTP, TIP, and conformity analysis with same design concept, scope, and schedule?

- **YES:** Document regional conformity. Analysis complete. Return to Step 6 of the Overall Project-Level Conformity Process.
- **NO:** Amend RTP and TIP to add project, or to correct design concept, scope, and schedule (open to traffic). Repeat Step 3.