Prototype Public Notice Language for Project-Level Conformity Analysis

If a project is a Project of (Air Quality) Concern (POAQC) for PM10 and/or PM2.5 (depending on the area), replace the underlined language in the prototypes below with the following, and make sure the hot spot analysis is available along with other environmental document materials for public review.

This project is considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (PM10 and/or PM2.5 as appropriate) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1) and the November 2015 U.S. EPA Particulate Matter Hot Spot Analysis Guidance. A detailed (PM10 and/or PM2.5 as appropriate) hot spot analysis was completed, as required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123, based on U.S. EPA Guidance.

When a public notice for a "not-POAQC" project is published for Draft and Final NEPA documents, include a paragraph that says substantially the following for "hot spot" related pollutants (CO, PM10, PM2.5). This language also covers ozone, which is not otherwise mentioned but is usually part of the picture. For <u>ozone-only areas</u> slightly different language is needed as shown at the end of this paper.

Formal "POAQC" consideration is unique to PM10 and PM2.5 analysis, but functionally similar consideration occurs for CO. For ozone, a project need only come from the RTP and TIP.

In Federal PM10 AND PM2.5 nonattainment/maintenance (but not CO) areas (Merced, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties; Calexico PM2.5 area in Imperial County; Sacramento County outside of Sacramento urbanized area; San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Fresno, and San Joaquin Valley portion of Kern Counties outside of the Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield urban areas):

Project-level conformity analysis 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) 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). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

In Federal nonattainment and maintenance areas for PM10 AND PM2.5 (South Coast air basin is attainment/maintenance for carbon monoxide (CO) while the other areas attainment/unclassified CO); (Sacramento County portion of the Sacramento urbanized area; Stockton urbanized area; Modesto urbanized area; Fresno urbanized area; and the Bakersfield urbanized area):

Project-level conformity analysis 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). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

In Federal nonattainment areas for PM2.5, <u>but</u> <u>not</u> PM10 (Sacramento urbanized area outside of Sacramento County; Bay Area; Chico urban area in Butte County):

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM2.5) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (PM2.5) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed 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). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

In Federal nonattainment/maintenance areas for PM10 <u>but not</u> CO or PM2.5 (Mono Lake and Mammoth Lakes areas in Mono County; Owens Valley and Coso Junction areas in Inyo County; Indian Wells Valley and Lake Isabella portions of Kern County; Trona area and San Bernardino Co. outside South Coast air basin; Coachella Valley area in Riverside County; Salton Sea air basin portion of Imperial County outside of the Calexico PM2.5 area):

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM10) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (PM10) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed PM10 hot-spot analysis was

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not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit PM10 hot-spot analysis. The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

NOTE: PM10 areas in Mono and Inyo Counties are "isolated rural." Omit the RTP and TIP sentence in those areas.

In Federal PM2.5 nonattainment or maintenance (<u>but not</u> CO or PM10) areas (Sacramento Metro ozone area outside Sacramento County except specific portions of

eastern Placer & El Dorado, and western Yolo Counties; Sutter & western Yuba Counties; western Butte County except Chico urban area; small portion of Portola area in Plumas County):

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM2.5) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a **Project of Concern regarding particulate** matter (PM2.5) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed 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). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

NOTE: PM2.5 area in Plumas County is "isolated rural." Omit the RTP and TIP sentence in the area.

If conformity affects an area <u>ONLY for ozone</u>, hot spot analyses are not required for project-level conformity approvals. In such cases, projects are conforming if they come from a conforming RTP and TIP with a matching design concept and scope, or (in isolated rural areas) if they are covered in a project-level regional conformity analysis prepared either for the project or for a previous project that includes the current project in its analysis list and covers a suitable analysis period. Project-level conformity notices for NEPA documents in these areas should be as follows:

Ozone-only MPO areas (eastern Butte County; specific parts of the Sacramento Metro ozone area in Sutter, eastern Placer & El Dorado and western Yolo Counties; eastern Kern County except Indian Wells Valley and the Lake Isabella PM10 areas; eastern San Luis Obispo County; Ventura County; Antelope Valley portion of LA County; San Diego Co.):

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan. Because the project area is Attainment/Unclassified for carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), no hot spot analysis is required for the project-level conformity determination by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. The project comes

from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

<u>Isolated Rural</u> ozone areas (Tuscan Buttes area (Tehama Co., D2), Western Nevada County in D3; Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties in D10):

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan. Because the project area is Attainment/Unclassified for carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), no hot spot analysis is required for the project-level conformity determination by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. A regional emission analysis was prepared for this project (OR: This project comes from a previously approved regional emission analysis) that demonstrates conformity. Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

If PM2.5 hot spot analysis is added to a project that has already completed the NEPA process, and public notice is required (the original NEPA document was a FONSI or EIS) the following language can be used as a starting point for developing a public notice. *If the project is a POAQC*, substitute the language at the top of this note for the underlined section.

Project-level conformity analysis for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) with interagency consultation required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding fine particulate matter (PM2.5) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed 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. Comment is requested regarding the PM2.5 project-level conformity analysis. Project-level conformity analysis was previously performed and approved for other pollutants for which the project area may be designated nonattainment or maintenance, and is not the subject of this request for comment.

Updated 4/10/2020 to reflect the 2015 Ozone nonattainment designation (new areas Amador & Tuolumne Counties) changes effective for conformity purposes on 8/3/2019. The following areas (Bakersfield, Fresno, Lake Tahoe North & South Shore, Sacramento, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Chico, Modesto, San Diego, and Stockton) met the 20 years from redesignation of attainment/maintenance for Carbon Monoxide (CO) to attainment/unclassified on June 1, 2018. Transportation conformity requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA) section 176 (c) no longer apply. Removed a number of maps to simplify the ADA remediation process, and will update the maps on the next review/update.