

## Statewide Conformity Working Group Summary Meeting Notes

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 9:30-12

**Participants:** if you were on the call and would like to be included in the participant list, please contact Lucas Sanchez at lucas.sanchez@dot.ca.gov

Shalanda Christian – Caltrans HQ	Ryan Niblock – SJCOG
Rodney Tavitas – Caltrans HQ	Scott Carson – FHWA
Renee Devere-Oki – SACOG	Joseph Vaughn - FHWA
Lucas Sanchez – Caltrans HQ	Rachel Kennedy - SANDAG
Marilee Mortenson – Caltrans HQ	Karina OConnor – EPA Region IX
Leonard Seitz – Caltrans HQ	Nesamani Kalandiyur – CARB
Shannon Hatcher – CARB	Harold Brazil – MTC
Dick Fahey – Caltrans District 4	Rongsheng Luo – SCAG
Laurie Huddleston – LA Metro	Andrew Yoon – Caltrans District 7
Andy Woods – District 7	Mike Brady – ICF
Panah Stauffer – EPA Region IX	Valarie McFall – TCA

**1. INTRODUCTIONS:** Shalanda Christian (Caltrans HQ) called the meeting at 9:35 am.

### **2. FEDERAL UPDATES INCLUDING:**

#### **a. EPA (Karina OConnor)**

- i. Staff Updates: Anita Lee is current acting office planning chief. Karina, Ginger, and John continue to be primary conformity contacts. New staff person Panah Stauffer joins air planning group, has not been assigned a specific geographic area yet.
- ii. Regulatory Updates & SIP Actions:
  - Updated [NAAQS Table](#) is available. The bolded items are the standards that have recently been updated. Forward questions to Karina or John Kelly.

- FR Nonattainment designations for 2015 Ozone standard was published on June 4<sup>th</sup>, effective date on August 3<sup>rd</sup> consistent with state recommendations. Guidance for conformity was posted in June and shared via email. One-year grace period for conformity findings is in place and ends on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.
- 2015 Ozone SIP requirements rule has yet to be published and revocation of 2008 has not taken place.
- Recent Region IX Publications: Chico PM2.5 Plan approval finalized and published in FR on May 9<sup>th</sup> and re-designations effective on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Bump-up of East Kern area was published on July 4, 2016, effective August 6<sup>th</sup>. Proposed Rule 2006 PM2.5 Plan for South Coast published on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

iii. Litigation: South Coast February 2018 Decision update – petition for rehearing denied by court on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Conformity related aspects of decision will not be in effect until February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. After February 16<sup>th</sup>, orphan areas will be subject to conformity findings for the ‘97 Ozone standard for federally funded projects. FHWA released interim guidance on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and EPA guidance is in progress. California is working on revising a number of plans in response to litigation. New SIPs with new budgets will be released in coming months, San Joaquin Ozone Plan is current priority due to a Region 9 deadline law suit.

- Question from Rongsheng Luo (SCAG): Confirmed with Karina that there are no orphan areas in the SCAG jurisdiction that would be subject to conformity for ‘97 Ozone standard.

iv. Sanction Clocks: Two areas have triggered offset sanction clocks on September 7<sup>th</sup>. EPA region IX is working with ARB and districts to turn off clocks before highway sanctions take place.

**b. FHWA (Scott Carson)**

i. Staff Updates: FHWA CA Division is still short staffed but is in midst of hiring process to fill three vacancies. Anticipated full

staffing is early 2019 to spring. MTC please forward questions to Jean Mazur. Please contact Caltrans HQ with technical assistance requests, and HQ staff will involve FHWA CA Division staff as needed.

- ii. Regulatory Updates: None

### **3. ARB UPDATES INCUDING (Shannon Hatcher and Nesamani Kalandiyur):**

- i. Staff Updates: None.
- ii. Recent State Actions on Air Quality Plans: May 25<sup>th</sup> CARB Board Meeting approved Imperial County SIP for annual 12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  PM2.5 Standard. Plan was transmitted to EPA. Upcoming Board meeting for October 25<sup>th</sup> with adoption for supplement to San Joaquin Valley state SIP strategy which will describe staff proposal for supplemental state commitment for additional mobile source control measures and emission reductions to attain federal 24 hour and annual PM2.5 standards. SIP submittal updates for ozone and PM2.5 nonattainment areas will be considered for multiple areas of the state regarding recent court decisions.
- iii. EMFAC 2017 Updates: Version 1.02 was released March 1<sup>st</sup> addressing minor issues for urban transit bus activity and CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates for light duty vehicles. Model was submitted for EPA approval in June, awaiting approval. MPOs are to continue using EMFAC2014 until new model is approved by EPA.
- iv. SB150: Augments SB375 by requiring report to legislator every four years that assesses progress made by MPOs in meeting their SB375 GHG reduction targets. Initial report is anticipated for release later this year. SB375 SCS Evaluation Guidelines framework recently updated and under review.

Question from Rachel Kennedy (SANDAG): Is there a timeframe estimate for EPA approval of EMFAC 2017?

Answer: It usually takes about six months, so early next year (2019) is the current timeframe. Karina has confirmed slight timeframe delay but expects first quarter of 2019 approval.  
Question from Rongsheng Luo (SCAG): Is there a timeframe estimate for release of SCS evaluation guidelines?

Answer: Possibly early next month with workshop to follow, but date has not been finalized.

#### **4. CALTRANS UPDATES INCLUDING (Shalanda Christian and Rodney Tavitas):**

- i. Staff Updates: None  
General Announcements: Caltrans District 4 Office will be hosting NTI Introduction to Transportation Conformity Training from March 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. There are still many vacancies for local agency partners that are interested. Contact Rodney Tavitas for enrollment information.
- ii. Conformity Status Table Update 2018: all areas that have attained the CO standard have been removed. Further updates will occur annually, and more frequently as needed. MPOs please publish conformity determinations for planning documents online for ease of access.
- iii. Clarification of Exemptions: Recent EPA FAQ for PM hot-spots clarified definitions of exempt project types like auxiliary lanes, road diets, etc. EPA and Caltrans guidance on exempt project have been consolidated to avoid confusion.
- iv. CT-EMFAC 2017 Updates (Khanh Vu): New features and additional improvements include updating vehicle fleet mix, traffic activity analysis approach, new functionalities for truck percentage distributions, consolidation of MSAT tool, expansion of GHG analysis, fuel consumption analysis for energy calculations, and new hot-spot emission functionalities to expedite calculations. Rollout is expected to follow EPA approval of EMFAC 2017.

- v. Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool (CAL-CET, Khanh Vu): Tool can provide estimates for 7 different project types and 8 different operational phases. Utilizes construction cost estimates rather than material quantities to estimate equipment usage on projects, consistent with Caltrans construction payment methods. CAL-CET can be used to estimate emissions for various projects such as SHOPP, safety, signing and striping, culverts, and other maintenance projects. Available for download from Caltrans Air Quality website under construction emissions tab.
- vi. Other topics: maintain contingency plans for changes in funding sources. Additionally, the AQEH branch is currently updating all air quality sections of the Standard Environmental Reference (SER), including the clarifications of exemptions for use by local partners.

#### **5. STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION & AIR QUALITY PLANNING (MPOs):**

- i. SACOG (Renee Devere-Oki): conformity for 2019 TIP update expected approval in December. New Plan will start conformity analysis next year for approval in spring 2020. Ozone budgets have been reviewed by committee cycle and will be considered at CARB board meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. SJCOG (Ryan Niblock): FTIP/Plan reviews and approvals by external agencies underway. 2017 FTIP continues project programming to fulfill four-year life of document at risk of fiscal constraint issues in upcoming 2019 FTIP.
- iii. SCAG (Rongsheng Luo): SCAG has adopted its 2019 FTIP and Consistency RTP/SCS Amendment, with anticipated federal approval in December. New transportation conformity budgets for 2012 annual PM2.5 standards have been approved by ARB and subsequently submitted to U.S. EPA. Revised transportation conformity budgets for 2008 8-hour Ozone standards will be considered by CARB later this month. 7 areas in the SCAG region have been designated nonattainment for 2015 ozone standard and conformity determinations are to be completed by end of grace period. Additionally, next cycle of RTP/SCS "Connect SoCal"

is accepting project submittals. Estimated adoption is April 2020 and approval later that year

- iv. SANDAG (Rachel Kennedy): Board approved 2018 RTP in September, awaiting state and federal approval. Update to regional plan schedule has been extended to spring of 2020. This is the first time SANDAG is entering a conformity grace period due to schedule extension. Public outreach for scenario concept development is in progress and board selection of draft transportation scenario will take place in spring of 2019 and conformity process will begin.
- v. MTC (Harold Brazil): 2019 TIP conformity analysis approved by commission and has been forwarded to Caltrans for inclusion in FSTIP. Conformity for new Plan will not take place until winter 2021. Once EMFAC2017, an additional conformity analysis will need to take place within one-year grace period.

**6. INFORMATION SHARING (All): NONE**

**7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:15**