



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

January 4, 2012

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Sacramento, CA 95814
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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Jesse Brown
Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments
369 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Acting Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, M.S. 82
For Rachel Falsetti, Division of Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Brown and Mr. Dougherty:

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP Amendment # 13

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 13 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) 2010/11-2013/14 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) by your letter dated December 21, 2011. MCAG approved Amendment # 13 to the 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP on December 15, 2011. This amendment to MCAG's FTIP:

- o Updates the programming of the Grouped Projects for Bridge Rehabilitation/Reconstruction to reflect the changes addressed in the 10/20/2011 Highway Bridge Program listing for Merced County.

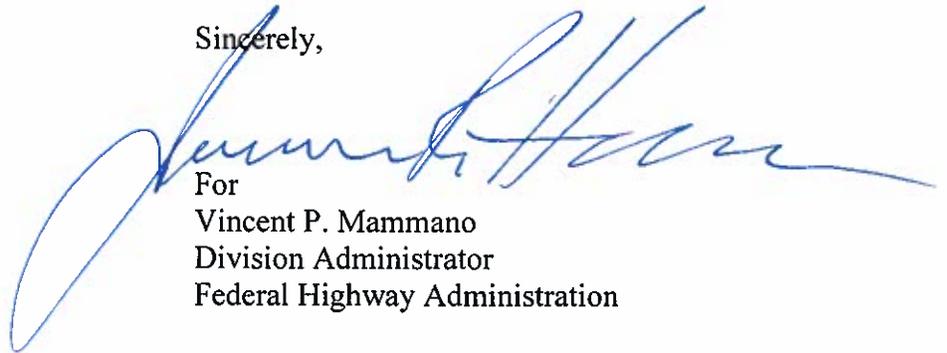
Pursuant to the July 15, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2010/11 – 2013/14 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the MCAG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the February 14, 2007 Federal Register. We find that MCAG's 2010/11-2013/14 FTIP through Amendment # 13 was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Section 6001 of Public Law 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

We have determined that this program modification is exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination for CMAQ projects or any other project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this MCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Scott Carson (Scott.Carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029.

Sincerely,



For

Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)

Ray Sukys, FTA

Eric Eidlin, FTA

Lima Huy, Caltrans HQ

Marjie Kirn, MCAG

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Karina O'Connor, EPA

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cc: (other)

MCAG FTIP Binder

SCarson/ww