U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

California Division

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

July 16, 2014

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Ms. Rachel Falsetti
Chief
Division of Transportation Programming
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2012/13-2015/16 FTIP Amendment # 23

Dear Ms. Falsetti:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 23 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) FY 2012/13-2015/16 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated May 16, 2014. MCAG Amendment # 23 was adopted by the MCAG Board with Resolution No. 2013/03-21-04 on June 19, 2014. This amendment to MCAG's 2013 FTIP programs the following project:

(105-0000-0100): Livingston Widening: Per the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval of the 2014 STIP on March 20, 2014, this parent project was split into segments:

- 105-0000-0134: Livingston Widening Northbound
- 105-0000-0135: Livingston Widening Southbound

  - (105-0000-0134): Livingston Widening Northbound: Widen freeway from 2 to 3 lanes in the northbound direction only. Design and Right-of-way to be funded in FY 17/18. These changes will be addressed in the 2015 FTIP. Total project cost for Northbound segment = $42,870,000.

  - (105-0000-0135): Livingston Widening Southbound: Widen freeway from 2 to 3 lanes in the southbound direction only. Design to be funded in FY 14/15, which is the reason for this FTIP Formal Amendment. Right-of-way and Construction to be funded in future years, which will be addressed in the 2015 FTIP.
    Total project cost for Southbound segment = $38,950,000

Formal Amendment No. 23 changes are ALL NON-TRANSIT.

Pursuant to the July 17, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX,* we accept the modifications to the 2012/13 – 2015/16 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 17, 2007 Federal Register. We find that the MCAG's FTIP, through Amendment # 22, 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. 174, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Sections 1201, 1202, 20005 and 20006 of Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress is the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

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 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (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 Cecilia Crenshaw (cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5033.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration