



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

California Division

August 6, 2013

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Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

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

Attn: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2012/13-2015/16 FTIP Amendment # 8

Dear Ms. Falsetti:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 8 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 April 2, 2013. MCAG Amendment # 8 was adopted by the MCAG Board with Resolution No. 2013/03-21-04 on May 16, 2013. This amendment to MCAG's 2013 FTIP programs the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Transfer with San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) and moves out CMAQ projects:

- CMAQ FUNDING TRANSFER: Per the Transfer Agreement between MCAG and San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), SJCOG's repayment of MCAG's FFY 11/12 CMAQ apportionment, in the amount of \$1,209,913, will be delayed to FFY 13/14;
- CMAQ Project: Atwater Pedestrian Improvements Nearby School: Atwater's project to construct/install pedestrian improvements nearby school and neighborhood park will be delayed, due to still working on environmental clearance. Therefore, the construction funding (CMAQ = \$396,890; City match = \$51,521) will be reprogrammed to FFY 13/14 (from FFY 12/13). Total project cost = \$463,311;
- CMAQ Project: Gustine Class II Bike Lanes Along Highway 33/140: Gustine's project to install Class II Bike Lanes along Highway 33/140 will be delayed, due to waiting for Caltrans issuance of encroachment permit and still working on environmental clearance. Therefore, the construction funding (CMAQ = \$270,016; City match = \$34,984) will be reprogrammed to FFY 13/14 (from FFY 12/13). Total project cost = \$335,500;
- CMAQ Project: Merced City Class I Bike Path (Black Rascal Creek): Merced City's project to install Class I Bike Path along Black Rascal Creek will be delayed, due to still working on environmental clearance. Therefore, the construction funding (CMAQ = \$388,080; City match = \$52,920) will be reprogrammed to FFY 13/14 (from FFY 12/13). Total project cost = \$591,000;

- CMAQ Project: Construct Roundabout on SR-140/33 in Gustine: Due to significant risks with obtaining environmental clearance in time to obtain the E-76 for R/W, the CMAQ funding for R/W (CMAQ = \$154,927; City match = \$20,073) will be reprogrammed to FFY 13/14 (from FFY 12/13). Total project cost = \$2,700,000.

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 14, 2007 Federal Register. We find that MCAG's FTIP, through Amendment # 8, 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 in 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).

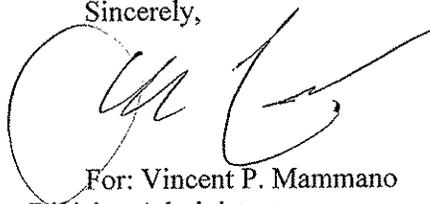
This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination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

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Sincerely,



For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration