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**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**February 23, 2021  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held via teleconference.

**SCAG**

Asuncion, John  
Luo, Rongsheng  
Sangkapichai, Mana

**Via Teleconference**

Anderson, Kelsie	TCA
Bade, Rabindra	Caltrans, District 12
Brugger, Ron	LSA Associates
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Huddleston, Lori	LA Metro
Hosford, Steve	CNS
Lay, Keith	HDR Engineering
Lee, David	Caltrans, District 8
Lu, James	CNS Engineers
Lugaro, Julie	Caltrans, District 12
Maddux, Bill	Urban Crossroads
Marroquin, Nancy	LA Metro
Masters, Martha	RCTC
Miranda, Jude	Caltrans, District 12
O'Connor, Karina	EPA Region 9
Ospina, Natalia	NRDC
Ramos, Maria	KOA
Sun, Lijin	SCAQMD
Tavitas, Rodney	Caltrans Headquarters
Vaughn, Joseph	FHWA
Whiteaker, Warren	OCTA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION**

Martha Masters, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

3.1 October 27, 2020 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting summary was approved.

3.2 January 26, 2021 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to the next TCWG meeting.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) **ORA001102Exemption**

It was determined that this project is exempt and not a POAQC.

2) **ORA001103rev**

It was determined that this project remains not a POAQC.

3) **RIV160405**

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

4.2 RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 1 submittals were due Friday, February 19, 2021.
- Modeling and analysis would be conducted as soon as possible to allow use of the EMFAC 2014 model for regional emissions analysis.
- SCAG's adoption of the RTP Amendment No. 1 was anticipated in July or August 2021.

Interagency Consultation on Start Date of Regional Emissions Analysis for 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 1

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Background: ARB develops and updates their emissions model about every three years and SCAG is required to use the model for transportation conformity analysis for the RTP and FTIP. Whenever the EMFAC model is adopted, the US

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EPA grants a grace period for transition. Currently, there are two versions of EMFAC that are approved: EMFAC2014 and EMFAC2017. The grace period for EMFAC2014 ends August 2021. According to 40 CFR § 93.111 (c) (Criteria and procedures: Latest emissions model.), the older version model can continue to be used if the emissions analysis starts prior to the end of the grace period. This discussion was to determine what marks the beginning of the emissions analysis.

- SCAG staff considers that the emissions analysis starts with network coding. To begin the emissions analysis, SCAG adds two major inputs into the Regional Transportation Model: (1) the growth forecast and (2) the transportation network. The output from the Regional Transportation Model runs is fed into the EMFAC model. Technically, the emissions analysis could start as early as developing the growth forecast and as late as running the EMFAC model itself, so determining the start date of the emissions analysis with network coding is a good middle ground.

Karina O'Connor, US EPA Region 9, indicated that EPA would consider transportation modeling and emissions modeling as separate processes, as they are addressed in transportation conformity rule. EPA would not consider the network coding as the start of the regional emissions analysis; the start of the emissions analysis can be considered once the transportation modeling is complete and there are inputs for the emissions modeling. EPA has been providing this same guidance to other MPOs.

Rongsheng clarified that SCAG runs the Regional Transportation Model for a large region over multiple years, and SCAG staff typically starts inputting data into the emissions model before all transportation modeling is finished. Rongsheng asked Karina if the transportation modeling had to be completed to mark the beginning of the emissions analysis.

Karina responded that it is likely flexible enough to consider that as the start of emissions analysis but would request clarification from EPA headquarters for a firm answer.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans HQ, requested Caltrans be kept informed for any potential delays.

Karina agreed to check with EPA HQ and send an email to Rongsheng, who will distribute the clarification email to TCWG.

#### 4.3 FTIP Update

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John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG's Transportation Committee recommended to SCAG's Regional Council to approve the 2021 FTIP in February 2021. Regional Council is expected to adopt the 2021 FTIP at their meeting on March 4, 2021. Upon the adoption, SCAG will submit the 2021 FTIP to Caltrans and then to FHWA and FTA for their final approval. The concurrent final approval of the 2021 FTIP and 2021 FTP Amendment #21-01 is expected in mid-April 2021.

2021 FTIP Conformity Analysis Status Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The 2021 FTIP Conformity Analysis was approved by SCAG's Energy and Environmental Committee (EEC) on February 4, 2021. Upon Regional Council adoption (expected March 2021), the conformity analysis will be submitted to FHWA and FTA for final approval.

4.4 EPA Update  
None.

4.5 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB sent the following update, which was shared by Rongsheng Luo, SCAG:

- CARB has released both the desktop and web-based versions of the EMFAC2021 model to the public at the end of last month. This new model reflects CARB's current understanding of statewide and regional vehicle activities, emissions, and recently adopted regulations, such as Advanced Clean Car and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations.

4.6 Air Districts Update

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD staff is still in the process of working with the 2022 AQMP working groups. There are several working groups for control measure development, including for residential and commercial buildings, oceangoing vessels, aircraft, heavy duty trucks, and construction and industrial equipment. Working group meetings would be ongoing and held monthly until at least August 2021.
- The next Residential and Commercial Buildings Working Group meeting would be held this Friday.
- SCAQMD staff was working on the New Sources Review and the clean fuel for boilers certifications for 2015 8-hour Ozone Standard. This item would be presented to the SCAQMD Board for approval in June 2021.

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Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, had no updates.

**5.0 INFORMATION SHARING**

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters thanked everyone who was able to make it to the last Statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group Meeting. The notes had been finalized and were pending internal approval; once approved, they would be posted online and sent out via email. He also reminded everyone of the switch to EMFAC 2017 on August 16th, which could cause slowdowns.

Rongsheng Luo noted that this was the last meeting with Martha Masters as the TCWG chair. Rongsheng acknowledged and thanked Martha for her outstanding service and contribution as TCWG Chair over the past 12 months especially under the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 via teleconference and Zoom meeting only.