



Item #05-12-25
Receive/File

SACOG Board of Directors

December 8, 2005

Update on Rate of Progress for the State Implementation Plan (ROP SIP) Progress

Issue: Progress on adopting a Rate of Progress State Implementation Plan (air quality plan) that will provide basis for adopting a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan that allows SACOG and its members to proceed with capacity building as well as exempt projects.

Recommendation: None, this item is for you to receive and file only.

Discussion: Attached is a letter from Larry Greene, Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, which explains that due to a recent, unexpected EPA action, the date by which we will be able to have a new MTP in effect will likely be delayed from March 2006 to April 2006. EPA in November 2005 promulgated a final rulemaking, two and a half years in the making, and the final rule contained modest but unexpected changes from the earlier draft rule. SMAQMD now faces some additional work linking back to the prior 1-hour-rule era. The EPA action is out of our control and is a fact we have no choice but to respond to.

SMAQMD and SACOG began work on the ROP SIP in late 2004, hoping their approach would dovetail with EPA's new rulemaking, which was expected imminently in November 2004. Over the last several months the SMAQMD staff has been working aggressively to finish the ROP SIP as expeditiously as possible. While the extra work is not good news, it is not disastrous either. We could have chosen to delay the process of developing the ROP SIP until the final EPA rule was published. While that approach would have given us 100% certainty about the target we had to meet, it would have meant that we would just now be starting work instead of now being in a position to finish it up.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:ts

Attachment

Key Staff: Pete Hathaway, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6235

S:\SACOG\BRDPCKTS\2005 Packets\Dec05\25-ROP SIP.doc 0600401