

SACOG Project Level Conformity Group Meeting

June 25, 2024

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jackie Kahrs with SACOG started the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

Introductions:

- Jackie Kahrs – SACOG
- Miguel Mendoza – SACOG
- Jasmine Amanin – FHWA
- Ada Marquez - FHWA
- Andrew Ledezma – EPA
- Zac Appleton – EPA
- Michelle Ruan – FTA
- Mark Loutzenhiser – SMAQMD
- Paul Philley – SMAQMD
- Paul Hensleigh – YSAQMD
- Rodney Tavitias – Caltrans
- Erika Espinosa Araiza – Caltrans
- Karishma Becha - Caltrans
- Christopher Dennis – Caltrans
- Aaron Bali – Caltrans
- Sum Bunton – Yuba County
- Jason Lemons – Wood Rodgers
- Chris Graham - Dewberry
- Micheel Jones – Entech Consulting
- Paul Gervacio – Psomas/City of Winters
- Time Chamberlain – Wood Rodgers
- Chris Hodge – Wood Rodgers
- Steve Robinson – Wood Rodgers

2. Consultation for Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) Determinations

a. SR128/I-505 Overcrossing /Russell Blvd Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Tim Chamberlain, Wood Rodgers gave a presentation on the project.

Discussion:

- Rodney – Looking for the truck numbers, but not seeing them.
- Tim – Full modeling not done since the project is not expected to change any VMT or truck trips.
- Rodney – will be helpful to have the truck numbers even if no change. Makes it easier so the numbers can be shown.
- Andrew L – Would like to see truck numbers in general. Would like to see a clear chart that there is no impact on AADT or truck traffic.
- Rodney – Moving forward, would like to have the truck data in the packet.
- Jasmine – FHWA would also like the truck numbers in the future.
- Note: All future POAQCs should have the truck numbers, regardless of simplicity or complexity
- EPA – Andrew – Not a project of air quality concern.

- Caltrans HQ – Rodney – Concurrs that this is not a project of air quality concern.

3. Consultation to Determine Projects of Regional Significance

a. Plumas Lake Blvd/SR 70 Interchange Project Phase 2

Christopher Graham, Dewberry gave a presentation on the project.

Discussion:

- Rodney – Only missing part is that the project missed the PM2.5 standard
- Rail grade crossings are generally exempt.
- No title 23 or 49 funding. No POAQC determination can be made.
- Pure grade separations have been exempt from regional conformity.
- If there is Title 23 or 49 funding the project will have to go back through interagency consultation for a POAQC determination.
- Since the project is just rail and does not affect traffic recommendation it is not regionally significant.
- Andrew – Cumulative project shows an increase in truck traffic. Where are those trucks coming from?
- Michelle – It is more of a redistribution of the traffic.
- Rodney – Crossings are generally exempt. Can the group confirm? If they can, when the revalidation is done again the statement would just have to be included that PM2.5 standard was applied.
- Rodney – Leaning towards not regionally significant. There is also reconfiguration.
- Andrew – More concerned about the construction of the on-ramp rather than the other aspects of the project.
- Jasmine – Leaning towards not being regionally significant. Might benefit from internal conversations. There is also concern on the southbound onramp. Low-risk project without federal funding and exemptions.
- Rodney, Andrew, Jasmine – Agrees that this project is not regionally significant.
- *Note: After the June 25, 2024 meeting, EPA, FHWA, and Caltrans followed up with a determination that the project is regionally significant in accordance with 40 CFR 93.101.*

4. Next Steps

SACOG will send an email to the project level conformity group to document determinations made during the meeting.