

SACOG Project Level Conformity Group Meeting

October 8, 2025

10:30 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
- Jasmin Amanin – FHWA
- John Kelly - EPA
- Michelle Ruan – FTA
- Mervin Acebo - FTA
- Aaron Bali – Caltrans D3
- Ian Justeson – Caltrans D3
- Erika Vaca – Caltrans HQ
- Karishma Becha – Caltrans HQ
- Rodney Tavitias – Caltrans HQ
- Kevin Hernandez Rio – Caltrans HQ
- Shannon Thaggard – EDCTC
- Sondra Spaethe - Feather River AQMD
- Youngil Cho – Caltrans D3
- Ryan Chance – City of Folsom
- Eden Winniford – Yolo-Solano AQMD
- Zach Liptak – Dokken Engineering

2. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) Status

a. U.S. Highway 50/Empire Ranch Road Interchange Project (SAC19890)

- Zach Liptak provided a presentation on the project.
- This project is located in Folsom along Highway 50 between the East Bidwell interchange and the El Dorado Hills Boulevard interchange. The project will cross over the Sacramento County line into El Dorado County.
- It's a brand-new interchange, extension of the existing Empire Ranch Road, and will cross over Highway 50 and connect to the new developments south of Highway 50.
- There will be a four-lane overcrossing and roundabouts at the local road intersections.
- The project was previously determined to not be a project of air quality concern in 2019 and there have been very little changes since that time. There's been some minor adjustments to the lane configurations or the ramp configurations, and other than that, it's essentially the identical project.
- Question: The project has two elements the interchange and extension of Empire Ranch Rd. Is the extension being delivered with this project?
- Answer: Yes.
- Q: Does the extension need to be included in the TIP?
- A: Just to clarify, Empire Ranch Rd dead ends on the north side of Highway 50 and the extension is connecting Empire Ranch Rd to south of Highway 50 via the overcrossing.
- Q: Can you clarify what the minor changes are since the last POAQC
- A: Due to traffic staging, the project area actually extended all the way to the two adjacent interchanges. The auxiliary lanes are still less than a mile in length, so, there's no concern with those. There's been some minor adjustments to the lane configurations or the ramp

configurations, but other than that, it's essentially the identical project. The main reason for coming back to IAC is that the previous IAC had been 3 years.

- EPA determined the U.S. Highway 50/Empire Ranch Road Interchange Project (SAC19890) is not a project of air quality concern. FHWA concurred.
3. Review of Regional Conformity Exemption Status
- SUT56284 – This project may be better categorized as an intersection channelization project.
4. Next Steps
- SACOG will send a revised Regional Conformity Exemption Status attachment via email as well as meeting minutes.
 - The next Project Level Conformity Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th at 10:30 am.