



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom, teleconference, and in person. A digital recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Banuelos, Ryan
Barajas, Agustin
Calderon, Karen
Kane, Kevin
Northfield, Shea
Sangkapichai, Mana
Whiteaker, Warren

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Anderson, Keturah
Bade, Rabindra
Berge, Brent
Brugger, Ron
Calvert, Brian
Caraig Jr., Caraig
Cooper, Keith
Dorantes, Michael
Duran, Octavio
Galbreath, Holly
Gaschot, Bertrand
Hendrawan, Kevin
Hernandez Rios, Kevin
Huddleston, Lori
Kaushik, Deepak
Knecht, Carey
Lay, Keith
Lewis, Nicole
Lising, Ronnel
Lugaro, Julie
McCarthy, Mike
Moran, Nohemi
Nadaf, Razi
Odufalu, Olufemi
Quintero, Gustavo
Tavitas, Rodney
Warkentin, Gary
Werkmeister, Jordan
Wong, Alison
Yoon, Andrew

ICF
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans District 11
LSA
ICF
Caltrans District 12
ERP
EPA
City of Highland
Ventura County APCD
MDAQMD
CARB
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
LA Metro
Iteris
CARB
ICF
Caltrans Headquarters (HQ)
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans District 12
Sierra Club
SBCTA
CARB
Caltrans District 8
Bechtel/RCTC
Caltrans HQ
PSOMAS
Psomas
Caltrans District 7
Caltrans District 7



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Vanessa Schoenewald, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The Chair announced the U.S. President signed an order to rescind California's Clean Air Act waivers, effective June 12, 2025. This action resulted in a statewide conformity lockdown similar to what occurred in 2019-2020 with the SAFE (Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient) Vehicles Rule.

The Chair clarified that projects scheduled for project-level conformity determinations under Item 4.1 could move forward with interagency reviews as they were included in a conforming RTP/TIP, and therefore currently not subject to the conformity lockdown.

Rodney Tavitias, Caltrans HQ, noted that based on previous experience with the SAFE Vehicles Rule, new regional conformity determinations requiring the use of the EMFAC2021 model for regional emissions analysis would likely not be made until U.S. EPA approved adjustment factors to the model that CARB would need to develop. The federal government was still in the process of preparing guidance on how to move forward.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair acknowledged a comment letter that was posted and distributed to the TCWG regarding Item 4.1-4: RIV090903.

Karen Calderon, SCAG, noted that a second comment letter was received for Item 4.1-4: RIV090903. The second comment letter was posted on SCAG's website and distributed to the TCWG during the meeting.

Mike McCarthy, Sierra Club, provided a public comment for Item 4.1-4: RIV090903.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. May 27, 2025 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1. Reviews of PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms

- **Attachment 4.1-1: 2011104 Clean; 2011104 Tracked:** It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.
- **Attachment 4.1-2: ORA131105 Clean; ORA131105 Tracked:** It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.
- **Attachment 4.1-3: LA0G1714:** It was determined that this project was exempt under the Safety Exemption pursuant to 40 CFR Section 93.126.
- **Attachment 4.1-4: RIV090903 Clean; RIV090903 Tracked; RIV090903 Memo 1; RIV090903 Memo 2:** The project was deferred by the project sponsor to review and address the public comments received.

4.2. RTP Update

Shea Northfield, SCAG, reported no updates.

4.3. FTIP Update

Shea Northfield, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2025 FTIP Amendments #25-01 through #25-09 had been approved and posted.
- 2025 FTIP Administrative Modification #25-10 would be approved by SCAG and uploaded to California Transportation Improvement Program System by the end of the week.
- 2025 FTIP Administrative Modifications #25-11 and #25-12 were due to SCAG on July 8, 2025.
- Draft 2027 FTIP Guidelines would be posted for a 30-day public review period starting on July 7, 2025.



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- The call for project nominations for SCAG's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 SBTG/CMAQ funding cycle had closed. County Transportation Commissions prioritization rankings were due to SCAG on August 1, 2025. Official award recommendations would be presented to the SCAG Regional Council by December 2025.

4.4. U.S. EPA Update

Michael Dorantes, U.S. EPA, reported the following:

- U.S. EPA staff was aware of concerns related to the nullification of the California's Clean Air Act waivers on July 12, 2025, and was working with state and federal partners to communicate a path forward when determined. Additional guidance would be provided after analysis and internal determinations were made.

4.5. CARB Update

Carey Knecht, CARB, reported the following:

- Nesamani Kalandiyur was on vacation, and she would serve as the CARB contact for TCWG during his absence.
- CARB staff were working on finalizing the technical documentation related to EMFAC202Y; however, the timing to submit that documentation was uncertain due to the recent federal decision to nullify the state's Clean Air Act waivers.
- CARB was working internally to discuss and analyze the potential impacts of the nullification of waivers and possible next steps.
- In response to a question, Carey Knecht noted she did not have information regarding any updates to the adjustment factor to the EMFAC2021 model.
- Warren Whiteaker, SCAG, commented on the timeline for developing adjustment factors and potential impacts to SCAG's next modeling FTIP and RTP consistency amendment, which would be the 2027 FTIP and Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment 2, if the lockdown was prolonged.
- CARB, Caltrans HQ, and U.S. EPA staff all noted they were still trying to assess the impact and would provide updates to the TCWG as they developed.

4.6. Air Districts Updates

4.6.1. Ventura County APCD Update

Holly Galbreath, Ventura County APCD, reported no updates.

4.6.2. South Coast AQMD Update

Vanessa Schoenewald, TCWG Chair, reported the following update on behalf of South Coast AQMD staff:

- The South Coast Air Basin was previously under sanctions clocks due to a failure to submit a SIP addressing serious non-attainment area requirements for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard.
- A highway sanction was set to take in effect on March 1, 2026. As of June 9, 2025, the sanctions clocks had been permanently turned off following U.S. EPA's confirmation that South Coast AQMD submitted the required SIP elements.
- There were no active sanctions clocks for the South Coast Air Basin or Coachella Valley.

4.6.3. Mojave Desert AQMD Update

Bertrand Gaschot, Mojave Desert AQMD, reported no updates.

4.6.3.1. Status Update on the Mojave Desert AQMD Litigation against U.S. EPA

Bertrand Gaschot, Mojave Desert AQMD, reported the following:

- Mojave Desert AQMD submitted a commitment letter to U.S. EPA by CARB to stay the offset



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sanction and defer the highway sanction clock, which would go into effect at the end of July 2025, and was waiting for U.S. EPA action.

4.6.4. Antelope Valley AQMD Update

No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.4.1. Status Update on the Antelope Valley AQMD Litigation against U.S. EPA

No representative was present to provide updates.

4.6.5. Imperial County APCD Update

No representative was present to provide updates.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Karen Calderon, SCAG, thanked Vanessa Schoenewald for successfully serving as TCWG Chair. She also introduced Lori Huddleston, LA Metro, as the TCWG's new Chair starting in July 2025.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 in-person, via Zoom, and by teleconference. PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms should have been submitted to Karen Calderon, calderon@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, July 8, 2025.