

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

November 8, 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document #: S48271

Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, MS #82
For Ross A. Chittenden, Division of Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: SANDAG 2004/05-2006/07 FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 11

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has completed our review of Amendment No. 11 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated October 5, 2005. The SANDAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2006-03 on September 2, 2005, approving Amendment No. 11 to the 2004 RTIP. As detailed in the enclosure to your letter, this SANDAG RTIP amendment proposes a new project to conduct preliminary engineering and design analysis for the intermodal right of way link between the City of San Diego and the proposed Regional International Airport in Imperial Valley. The project scope includes a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis of using dedicated highway lanes and magnetic levitation high-speed rail alternatives. The project is funded as a High Priority Program project (HPP No. 3537) in Section 1702 of the SAFTEA-LU surface transportation program reauthorization legislation.

Pursuant to the July 15, 2004, Memorandum of Understanding between the FHWA, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Region IX, we accept these modifications to the 2005-2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the SANDAG region in accordance with the Federal statewide and metropolitan transportation planning regulations codified in 23 CFR Part 450. We find that the SANDAG 2004 RTIP, including Amendment No. 11, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 USC §134 and 49 USC Chapter 53. We have determined that the adopted modification to the SANDAG RTIP, proposed for inclusion in California's FSTIP by this amendment, is exempt from the regional emissions analysis and conformity determination requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Transportation Conformity Rule as amended. Our transportation planning and air quality conformity findings have been coordinated with the regional offices of the U.S. EPA and FTA.



If you have questions or need additional information concerning our FSTIP approval for this SANDAG RTIP amendment, please contact Wade Hobbs of the FHWA California Division office, at (916) 498-5027, or by email at wade.hobbs@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wade Hobbs

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator

cc: (e-mail)

Randy Steen, Caltrans - Federal Resources Branch,
Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans - Transportation Programming
Terry Abbott, Caltrans - Office of Local Programs
Sookyung Kim - SANDAG
Karina O'Connor - EPA Region IX,
Hymie Luden - FTA Region IX

cc: (other)

SANDAG FTIP Binder

Whobbs/jf