

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

June 12, 2006

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document #: S49223

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

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Ross A. Chittenden, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: SANDAG 2004/05-2006/07 FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 15

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of Amendment number 15 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated May 5, 2005. The SANDAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2006-17 on April 21, 2006, approving amendment number 15 to the 2004 RTIP. As detailed in the enclosure to your letter, this SANDAG RTIP amendment proposes to delete four previously listed projects, add 5 new project listings to the RTIP, and modify 18 RTIP projects previously listed in the triennial element of California's 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

We are approving Amendment No. 15 to the 2004/05-2006/07 FSTIP for the SANDAG region pursuant to the Federal statewide and metropolitan transportation planning regulations in 23 CFR part 450, and in accord with the *July 15, 2004, Memorandum of Understanding between the FHWA, California Division, and the FTA, Region IX*. Pursuant to 23 CFR 450.216, project programming information included in the amendment for additional years beyond the current FSTIP triennial element is accepted by the FHWA and the FTA only for information purposes.

We find that SANDAG's 2004/05-2006/07 RTIP, including Amendment No. 15, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. §139 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. We have determined that the adopted modifications to the SANDAG RTIP, proposed for inclusion in California's FSTIP by this amendment, are 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

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

c: (e-mail)

Randy Steen, Caltrans – Federal Resources Branch
Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans – Transportation Programming
Terry Abbott, Caltrans – Office of Local Programs
Sookyung Kim – SANDAG
Hymie Luden – FTA Region IX
John Kelly, EPA Region IX

cc:

SANDAG FTIP Binder

WHobbs: