



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**California Division**

November 15, 2019

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In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-CA

Mr. Bruce de Terra, Division Chief  
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California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director  
San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

**SUBJECT: SANDAG 2019 FTIP/FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 8 APPROVAL AND  
CONFORMITY DETERMINATION FOR 2019 RTP AND 2019 FTIP  
THROUGH AMENDMENT NO. 8**

Dear Messrs. de Terra and Ikhata:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our reviews of Amendment No. 8 to the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP); and, conformity analysis for SANDAG's 2019 Federal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2019 FTIP through Amendment No. 8 submitted by your letters dated October 28, 2019 and October 25, 2019, respectfully. As detailed in your letter's enclosure this amendment requests to add 15 new individual and one grouped project listings to SANDAG's FTIP, and to modify 11 individual and three grouped project listings with removal of one individual project listing previously approved for inclusion in SANDAG's portion of the California Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

On October 25, 2019 SANDAG adopted *San Diego Forward: The 2019 Federal RTP* via Resolution No. 2020-12 and associated 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 8 via Resolution No. 2020-03. A FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination is required pursuant the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Transportation Conformity Rule*, 40 Code of Regulations (CFR) Parts 51 and 93, and the United States Department of Transportation's *Metropolitan Planning Rule*, 23 CFR Part 450. The conformity analysis given by SANDAG indicates all air quality conformity requirements have been met and, based on our review, we determined its 2019 Federal RTP and 2019 FTIP through Amendment No. 8 conform to the applicable state

implementation plan in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. SANDAG's new conformity determination for the 2019 Federal RTP is consistent to align with its 2019 FTIP through Amendment No. 8 and has been coordinated with Region 9 of the EPA in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000.


Pursuant to the February 14, 2018 *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FHWA – California Division and FTA – Region 9*, and based on our review of information submitted with the State's proposed 2018/19 – 2021/22 FSTIP, which includes revenues, proposed project funding information to demonstrate financial constraint, and statewide and metropolitan planning process documentation, we accept this FSTIP modification proposed for the SANDAG region in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613 (see the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the May 27, 2016 Federal Register). We have determined SANDAG's amended portion of the FSTIP, to include its FTIP Amendment No. 8, is financially constrained as required by the Federal surface transportation programs authorizing legislation and statewide planning, metropolitan planning, and programming regulations. SANDAG's portion of the FSTIP was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 134 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Public Law 114-94 (the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act).

Our FSTIP amendment approval is being given with understanding that an eligibility determination of individual projects for funding must be met, and the applicant must ensure satisfaction of all administrative and statutory requirements. If you have questions or would request additional information pertaining to our conformity finding and FSTIP amendment approval, contact Michael Morris of the FHWA California Division's Cal-South Office at (213) 894-4014 or [michael.morris@dot.gov](mailto:michael.morris@dot.gov); or Darin Allan of the FTA's Region 9 Office at (415) 734-9470 or [darin.allan@dot.gov](mailto:darin.allan@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Ray Tellis

Ray Tellis  
Regional Administrator  
FTA Region 9

  
Tashia J. Clemons  
Director, Planning and Environment  
FHWA California Division