



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: February 18, 2011

FR: Grace Cho

W. I.

RE: PM_{2.5} Project Conformity Interagency Consultation

On December 14, 2009, EPA designated the Bay Area region as non-attainment for the criteria pollutant particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}). As a designated non-attainment area, the Bay Area is subject to new individual project level conformity requirements for PM_{2.5}. As of December 14, 2010 Bay Area project sponsors are required to undergo project level conformity determinations for PM_{2.5} if their project meets certain criteria.

MTC developed and adopted PM_{2.5} interagency consultation procedures (MTC Resolution No. 3946) making the meetings of the Air Quality Conformity Task Force serve as the forum for the interagency consultation. The Air Quality Conformity Task Force is responsible for determining whether a project qualifies as a project of air quality concern (POAQC) and for reviewing the assumptions, methods, and analysis to be included in the PM_{2.5} hot-spot analysis. To date, the Task Force has conducted 12 interagency consultations to determine POAQC status, one hot-spot analysis and identified numerous projects as exempt from PM_{2.5} project level conformity.

Several project sponsors completed the initial steps of the project level conformity process and seek interagency consultation from the Air Quality Conformity Task Force at this time, as follows:

No.	Project Sponsor	Project Title
1	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	SR-237/I-880 Express Connectors
2	Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)/Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA)/Caltrans	US 101 Marin/Sonoma Narrows
3	Santa Clara County	Almaden Expressway Improvements

Attachment A includes descriptions of the above projects and corresponding Project Assessment Forms. Please note that for the US 101 Marin/Sonoma Narrows project only one project assessment form was submitted to cover the entire project that spans across two counties.

Additionally, MTC requests the review and concurrence from the Air Quality Conformity Task Force of a set of projects that project sponsors have identified as exempt and likely to not be POAQC. **Attachment B** lists these exempt projects.