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Memorandum

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: October 13, 2011

FR: Stefanie Hom

W. I.

RE: Procedure for Handling Projects of Air Quality Concern Determinations for Eastern Solano County

In August 2011, MTC met with staff from Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Solano Transportation Authority (STA), and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) to discuss project-level conformity roles and responsibilities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) currently exists between MTC and SACOG for purposes of regional conformity and programming, however, the MOU was developed prior to Eastern Solano County's non-attainment designation for PM_{2.5}, a designation requiring non-exempt/other defined projects to analyze local air quality impacts. Because the MOU does not address POAQC determinations, an interagency discussion was held to determine a preferred approach on handling determinations and implementation steps.

Solano County is covered by several different agencies. For federal transportation planning and programming purposes, all of Solano County is part of the MTC region. For air quality planning purposes, the cities located in the western portion of Solano County (Fairfield, Benicia, Suisun City, and Vallejo) fall within the air basin overseen by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The cities located in the eastern portion (Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista) fall within the air basin managed by the YSAQMD and the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area. Because Eastern Solano County is in the Sacramento nonattainment area, it is linked to the SACOG region for purposes of regional conformity. MTC and SACOG also have different individual federal reviewers from EPA, FHA, and FTA, and are in different Caltrans districts.

The consensus of the August 2011 discussion was that the existing approach for conducting interagency consultation and making POAQC determinations should remain in place, and that MTC should continue to take eastern Solano County projects through its process. Additionally, YSAQMD will provide an update to SACOG's Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) on determinations made for projects in the Eastern Solano County sub-region on a quarterly basis. YSAQMD would determine if an individual project needs to be presented to both MTC's Air Quality Conformity Task Force and SACOG's RPP.