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## *Memorandum*

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: April 23, 2015

FR: Adam Crenshaw

RE: Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New Projects

Staff has prepared the following information in an effort to streamline the review of the regional air quality conformity implications of projects that staff proposes to add into the 2015 TIP through current or future revisions. This item is for advisory purposes only. The inclusion of these projects in a proposed revision to the TIP is subject to Commission approval in the case of amendments and MTC's Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director in the case of administrative modifications. The final determination of the regional air quality conformity status of these projects will be made by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency as part of their review of proposed final TIP amendments and by the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director as part of their review for TIP administrative modifications. Staff is not requesting a review of the project-level air quality conformity implications of these projects through this item. Details of each project and category of projects under review is as follows:

### New Projects in Amendment 15-09 Not Previously Reviewed by the Task Force

At its March 26, 2015, meeting the Task Force reviewed a list of new projects that staff proposed to include in TIP Amendment 15-09. Subsequent to the March Task Force meeting, additional new projects were added to Amendment 15-09. This amendment was then approved by the Commission at its April 22, 2015 meeting. Attachment A includes a list of new projects that the Commission included in proposed amendment 15-09, which were not included in the Task Force's March 26 review, along with the regional air quality category that staff believes best describes the projects.

### New Projects Staff is Proposing to Include in Future Revisions

Attachment B includes a list of new projects that staff is proposing to add to the 2015 TIP through future TIP revisions other than 15-09. Please note that the addition of individually listed projects to the TIP requires a TIP amendment or update, while the addition of projects to a grouped listing may be done through an administrative modification, if the addition of those projects meets the requirements of the FSTIP/FTIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments Procedures.

### New Project Proposed for the Local Highway Bridge Program

Attachment C includes details for seven projects in Santa Clara County where one-lane bridges are proposed to be replaced with new, two-lane bridges. Since the projects would expand the capacity of the roadway at the site of the bridge, they would not normally be considered exempt from regional air quality conformity. However, as the bridges are located in rural areas, are

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structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and replacing the bridges with new one-lane bridges would be inconsistent with current design standards, staff is requesting the Task Force's concurrence that these projects may be classified as exempt from regional conformity analysis under 40 CFR 93.126 – "Safety: Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature." This classification would be consistent with previous concurrences given by the Task Force.

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