HEMINGER / T. McMillan / Flemer / ~~[illegible]~~

Ashley
Harold

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA. 95814


February 1, 2007

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
Document # 49869

Mr. Steve Heminger, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Joseph P. Bart – Metro Center
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

Dear Mr. Heminger:

SUBJECT: Use of Latest Planning Assumptions in Transportation Conformity Determinations

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) regarding the use of updated vehicle fleet data in conformity determinations. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has decided that there would be no updates to the vehicle fleet data as contained in the 2007 version of EMFAC released in November, 2006. Therefore, beginning February 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are providing the MPOs with a six-month transitional period for using the new vehicle fleet data in conformity determinations. In order for FHWA and FTA to approve conformity determinations using the older fleet data, the emissions modeling must be started by August 1, 2007. Conformity determinations where the emissions modeling is started after August 1, 2007, must use the updated vehicle fleet data. This letter supersedes our letter of January 5, 2007.

Please take these requirements into consideration as you schedule new conformity determinations on regional transportation plans and/or transportation improvement programs. CARB's long-term commitment to update the vehicle fleet data every three years, independent of future EMFAC model updates, should eliminate issues related to the age of vehicle fleet data in the future. If you have any questions regarding the use of the updated vehicle fleet data, please contact Ms. Jean Mazur at (916) 498-5732.

Sincerely,

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator

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