



San Diego Region Conformity Working Group

Item: **2**

August 5, 2020

Action: **Information**

July 1, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Rachel Kennedy, Senior Regional Planner, called the meeting of the San Diego Region Conformity Working Group (CWG) to order at 10:32 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees joining by browser were introduced and self-introductions were made for attendees joining by phone. An attendance list is included.

2. Meeting Minutes (Information)

Ms. Kennedy asked the CWG to review the minutes from its January 7, 2020, meeting. No comments or corrections were made.

3. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments

No public comments were made.

Reports

4. Ozone State Implementation Plan Development (Discussion)

Nick Cormier, Air Pollution Control District (APCD), provided background and an overview of Draft Ozone Attainment Plan for San Diego County. The draft plan covers both the 2008 and the 2015 ozone standards. Included in the draft plan is a voluntary reclassification for ozone non-attainment from serious for the 2008 standard and moderate for the 2015 standard to severe for both standards. This is consistent with modeling predictions of attainment dates and the Clean Air Act deadlines for severe areas. The reclassification provides additional time to demonstrate conformity and additional requirements. The draft plan includes new air quality budgets for the on-road mobile emissions sector. These include a 30% reduction by 2026 and a 40% reduction by 2032, based on 2020 levels. Comments on the draft plan and supplemental materials are due by Friday, July 31, 2020. APCD anticipates presenting the final plan for adoption by the APCD in September 2020, after which the plan will go to the CARB Board in October and then be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval.

5. Vehicle Miles Offset Demonstration and Latest Programmed Transportation Control Measures (Discussion)

Nesamani Kalandiyur, California Air Resources Board (CARB), provided a summary of the vehicle miles travelled (VMT) offset demonstration and latest programmed transportation control measures. These materials support the Draft Ozone Attainment Plan for San Diego County. The Clean Air Act requires regions classified as severe or extreme to offset their growth in emissions that come from growth in VMT or vehicle trips. The offset is accomplished with Transportation Control Strategies (TCS) and Transportation Control Measures (TCM). CARB found that existing TCS and TCMs are sufficient to offset growth in emissions for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards.

6. 2021 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Conformity Criteria and Procedures (Discussion)

At a special meeting of the California Federal Programming Group for Metropolitan Planning Organizations on June 3, 2020, a decision was made to move forward with the Federal-State Transportation Improvement program update. This update had been delayed due to uncertainties from federal rule makings of the SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 1 and Part 2. Caltrans has set a due date of March 1, 2021, for MPO's Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

1. 2021 RTIP Schedule

Sue Alpert, Senior Financial Programming Analyst, reviewed the schedule for the 2021 RTIP update. The July 1, 2020, meeting initiated the consultation process for conformity criteria. At its August 5, 2020, meeting, the CWG will review the project list and the conformity analysis at the November 4 meeting. A public comment period is scheduled for December and January, and the SANDAG Board will be asked to approve the 2021 RTIP in late February. Federal approval is anticipated in April 2021.

2. Revenue-Constrained Financial Assumptions

Ms. Alpert reviewed the financial assumptions included in the 2021 RTIP update. These assumptions take in to account current conditions including uncertainty with surface transportation funding legislation, the global pandemic, decreasing demand for fuel, and volatile oil prices.

3. 2050 Regional Growth Forecast

Ms. Kennedy provided an overview the of the Series 14, 2050 Regional Growth Forecast which will be used for the 2021 RTIP update. This forecast is consistent with the currently approved 2019 Federal Regional Transportation Plan. This forecast includes projections of population, jobs, and housing out to 2050 for the San Diego Region.

4. Travel Demand Model

Ziying Ouyang, Senior Transportation Modeler, provided an overview of the travel demand model that will be used in developing the 2021 RTIP update. The Regional Growth Forecast is an input to the model. The second generation of the Activity Based Model (ABM) known as ABM2 will be used for the 2021 RTIP conformity analysis. The model is informed by local and community plans, corridor studies, project impact studies, and local climate action plans.

5. Latest Emission Model and Emission Budgets

Ms. Kennedy provided a summary of the latest emissions model, and emissions budgets. SANDAG will use EMFAC 2017 for conducting conformity analysis for the 2021 RTIP. Outputs from the ABM2 will provide data needed for EMFAC 2017. The conformity years comply with 40 CFR 93.106(a)(1) and 93.118(a) and include 2023, 2030, 2040, and 2050.

6. Transportation Control Measures

Ms. Kennedy shared information on Transportation Control Measures (TCM). The four federally approved TCMs for San Diego County are ride sharing, transit improvements, traffic flow improvements, and bicycle facilities and programs. These TCMs have been fully implemented and continued to be funded although the level of implementation established in the State Implementation Plan has been surpassed.

7. Public Involvement and Outreach

Ms. Alpert shared information on public involvement and outreach which is guided by SANDAG Board Policy No. 025, Public Participation Plan.

7. SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 2 (Discussion)

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 2, jointly released in the federal register by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and U.S. EPA on April 30, 2020. CARB and U.S. EPA have found that this component of the rule does not require additional adjustment factors for transportation conformity.

8. Upcoming Meetings (Information)

The next CWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

ARB will hold an EMFAC 2020x Workshop on July 30, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There are also two public State Implementation Plan workshops scheduled for July 9 and 13, 2020.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG San Diego Region Conformity Meeting

July 1, 2020

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
Air Resources Board	Nesamani Kalandiyur	Yes	
	Stephanie Parent	Yes	
Caltrans	Lucas Sanchez	Yes	
	Lexie Arellano	Yes	
Caltrans District 11	Michelle Blake	Yes	
Federal Highways Administration	Joseph Vaughn	Yes	
Federal Transit Administration	Brenda Perez	Yes	
U.S. EPA	John Kelly	Yes	
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District	Nick Cormier	Yes	
SANDAG Staff			
	Sue Alpert	Yes	
	Elisa Arias	Yes	
	Rachel Kennedy	Yes	
	Richard Radcliff	Yes	
	Sam Sanford	Yes	
	Dawn Vettese	Yes	
	Kendall Reynolds	Yes	
	Ziying Ouyang	Yes	