



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

November 5, 2018

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Bruce de Terra
Chief, Division of Transportation Programming
California Department of Transportation, MS 82
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) 2017 FTIP Amendment # 9

Dear Mr. De Terra:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 9 to the Kern County Association of Governments (BCAG) 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated October 19, 2018. BCAG adopted Amendment # 9 on September 21, 2018. This amendment to BCAG's FTIP:

- Modifies projects in the BCAG region. Funding sources include the State Transportation Improvement Program and the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

Pursuant to the February 14, 2018, *Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2017 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the BCAG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the May 27, 2016 Federal Register.

We find that the BCAG's FTIP, through Amendment # 9, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Public Law 114-94, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST).

As stated in BCAG's support materials, the purpose of this amendment is to combine previous separate STIP and SHOPP projects into one project as approved by the California Transportation Commission. We have determined that this program modification is not exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. However, the amendment for the projects as listed do not reflect a

change in design concept or scope of the projects, the projects are listed in the current 2016 RTP/SCS, and there are no changes to the analysis years listed in the conformity analysis for the RTP and FSTIP. Therefore, the previous emissions analysis is consistent with the applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination for CMAQ projects or any other project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this BCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Scott Carson (scott.carson@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5029.



Tashia J. Clemens
Director of Planning and Environment
Federal Highway Administration