



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415.778.6700  
[www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

## **Air Quality Conformity Task Force**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center

### **Mount Hamilton Conference Room**

375 Beale Street, Suite 800

(Note: Visitors must check in with the receptionist on the 7th floor)  
San Francisco, CA

Conference Call Number: Dial - **(415) 655-0002 (Access Code: 922 043 732)**

Participant ID is # **button**.

**May 23, 2019**

**9:30 a.m. –11:00 a.m.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Project Conformity Interagency Consultations
  - a. Confirm Projects Are Exempt from PM<sub>2.5</sub> Conformity
3. Projects with Regional Air Quality Conformity Concerns
  - a. Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New and Revised Projects  
3a\_Regional\_AQ\_Conformity\_Review\_052319.pdf  
3\_Attachment-A\_List\_of\_Proposed\_New\_Projects\_052319.pdf
4. Transportation Air Quality Conformity Redetermination for the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 (Comments Discussion)
5. Consent Calendar
  - a. April 25, 2019 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary
6. Other Items

Next Meeting: June 27, 2019

MTC Staff Liaison: Harold Brazil [hbrazil@bayareametro.gov](mailto:hbrazil@bayareametro.gov)



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## *Memorandum*

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: May 10, 2019

FR: Harold Brazil

W. I.

RE: PM<sub>2.5</sub> Project Conformity Interagency Consultation

MTC requests the review and concurrence from the Air Quality Conformity Task Force (AQCTF) that the list of projects sponsors have identified as exempt and likely not to be a POAQC. **2b\_Exempt List 05092019.pdf** lists exempt projects under 40 CFR 93.126.

40 CFR 93.126 Exempt Projects List

County	TIP ID	Sponsor	Project Name	Project Description	Expanded Description	Project Type under 40 CFR 93.126
ALA	ALA170032	AC Transit	AC Transit: Purchase 19 60-ft Artic Urban Buses	AC Transit: 19 vehicles: Purchase 19 60-ft Articulated Urban Buses	AC Transit: 19 vehicles: Purchase 19 60-ft Articulated Urban Buses (14 replacement and 5 expansion)	Mass Transit - Purchase of new busses and rail cars to replace existing vehicles or for minor expansions of the fleet



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## *Memorandum*

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: May 9, 2019

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 2019 TIP through current or future revisions. This item is for advisory purposes only. The inclusion of these projects and project changes 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.

### Projects Staff is Proposing to Include in the 2019 TIP

Staff has received requests from sponsors to add one new individually listed project and one group listed project to the 2019 TIP. Attachment A includes a list of these projects along with the regional air quality category that staff believes best describes the projects.

MTC staff is not seeking a determination on the status of these projects for project-level conformity purposes with this item.

Item 4 - Attachment A							
County	TIP ID/FMS ID	Sponsor	Project Name	Project Description	Project Expanded Description	Project Type	
<b>Proposed New Individually Listed Projects for Regional Air Quality Conformity Status Review</b>							
1	Santa Clara	SCL190027	VTA	VTA: SCADA Hardware, Software, Network Upgrade	VTA: Systemwide: Update three related Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) subsystems. 1) Hardware 2) Software 3) Network	VTA: Systemwide: Update three related Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) subsystems. 1) SCADA Hardware updates servers, workstations and overhead display. 2) SCADA Software updates operating and application priority software. 3) SCADA Network updates Ethernet switches, firewall and device servers.	EXEMPT (40 CFR 93.126) - Construction or renovation of power, signal, and communications systems
<b>Proposed New Group Listed Projects for Regional Air Quality Conformity Status Review</b>							
2	Contra Costa	VAR170007	Caltrans	GL: Safety Imprv. - SHOPP Collision Reduction	In and near Martinez, from East Hercules Underpass to west of Pine Street/Center Avenue. Install safety lighting and apply High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST).	In and near Martinez, from East Hercules Underpass to west of Pine Street/Center Avenue. Install safety lighting and apply High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST).	EXEMPT (40 CFR 93.126) - Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature



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## *Memorandum*

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: May 10, 2019

FR: Harold Brazil

W. I.

RE: Conformity Redetermination for the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040

### **Background**

In 2015, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards [NAAQS] for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion [ppb] [from 75 ppb previously] and the San Francisco Bay Area was designated at nonattainment for this 2015 ozone standard.

Nonattainment areas must demonstrate conformity for transportation plans and transportation improvement programs (TIPs) to the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the end of the grace period (August 3, 2019). In addition, EPA's transportation conformity guidance allows 2015 ozone NAAQS nonattainment areas to rely on a regional emissions analysis completed for a previous ozone standard.

MTC's Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 and the 2019 TIP (federally approved in December 2018) demonstrated conformity to the previous federal 2008 ozone standard and also meets all EPA guidance requirements to demonstrate conformity to the 2015 ozone standard. Therefore, MTC staff has made minor text edits to the Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 and the 2019 TIP to include language applying to the 2015 ozone standard and will use this revised redetermination document to demonstrate conformity to the 2015 standard.

### **Public Comment Period and Next Steps**

Federal regulations also require an opportunity for public comment on the draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis (redetermination) for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 and the 2019 TIP prior to Commission approval and the draft document was released for public review and comment beginning on April 26, 2019. The close of the comment period is 5:00 pm on May 26, 2019 and MTC staff will review and respond to comments submitted during the public comment period.

Staff consulted with the Air Quality Conformity Task Force on the development of this draft Conformity Analysis at their meeting on April 25, 2019 and will share with the Task Force comments received as of their May 23, 2019 meeting and MTC will share any additional comments received after the Task Force meets and prior to the deadline via email.

The final documents, comments received, and the agency's responses will be presented at the June 2019 Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee meeting. The final documents are scheduled to be presented for approval at the June 28, 2019 Commission meeting. Final federal approval of the Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 and the 2019 TIP is expected in August 2019.

**Schedule for the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Draft Amended 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 (PBA2040)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Conformity Task Force Reviews Proposed Conformity Approach	March 28, 2019
MTC Staff Conducts Technical Analysis & Report Preparation	March/April 2019
Discuss Draft Conformity Analysis Release Date with AQCTF	April 25, 2019
Begin Public Review and Comment Period	<b>April 26, 2019</b>
Discuss Draft Conformity Analysis with AQCTF	May 23, 2019
End of Public Comment Period	<b>May 26, 2019</b>
Committee Approval	June 14, 2019
Commission Approval	June 26, 2019
Expected FHWA/FTA Final Approval of the Amended 2019 TIP and Amended PBA2040 AQ Conformity Analysis	July, 2019

**Air Quality Conformity Task Force  
Summary Meeting Notes  
April 25, 2019**

Participants:

Andrea Gordon – BAAQMD  
Shannon Hatcher – CARB  
Dick Fahey – Caltrans  
Joseph Vaughn – FHWA  
Gary Sidhu – Alameda County Transportation  
Commission  
Jennifer Gallerani – Circlepoint  
Karina O’Connor – EPA  
Dominique Kraft – FTA

Aaron Elias – Kittelson & Associates  
Patrick Sutton – Baseline Environmental  
Consulting  
Sasha Dansky – Mark Thomas  
Rodney Tavitias – Caltrans  
Lucas Sanchez – Caltrans  
Adam Crenshaw – MTC  
John Saelee – MTC  
Harold Brazil – MTC

- 1. Welcome and Self Introductions:** Harold Brazil (MTC) called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.
- 2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Project Conformity Interagency Consultations**

**a. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern Status  
I-880 Interchange Improvements Project (Whipple Road-Industrial Pkwy) Project**

Sasha Dansky (Mark Thomas) started his presentation of I-880 Interchange Improvements (Whipple Road-Industrial Pkwy) project by indicating that the project’s location is along I-880 from 0.6 mile south of the I-880/Whipple Road-Industrial Parkway Southwest Interchange to 0.3 mile north of the I-880/Industrial Parkway West. Mr. Dansky also stated that the existing land uses in the project vicinity include single-family residential, commercial, and light-industrial developments with no schools, parks, hospitals, and convalescent homes are located within 500 feet of the project.

Mr. Dansky went on to describe the purpose and need of I-880 Interchange Improvements project by stating that the project would:

- Improve traffic operations and safety by improving accessibility and enhancing mobility to the Industrial Technology and Innovation (ITI) Corridor.
- Provide safe bicycle and pedestrian connections through the interchanges.

Mr. Dansky also described the I-880 Interchange Improvements project by saying it would include:

- Interchange construction and local road improvements along Interstate 880 (I-880) from 0.6 miles south of the I-880/Whipple Road-Industrial Parkway Southwest Interchange to 0.3 miles north of I-880/Industrial Parkway West.
- Project would also,
  - Reconfigure interchange on- and off-ramps
  - Construct, modify and/or replace bridge structures

- Realign local roadways and restriping
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Realign a drainage canal

Task Force members had no comments.

**Final Determination:** With input from FHWA, EPA, Caltrans (deferring their determination to FHWA) and FTA, the Task Force concluded that the I-880 Interchange Improvements Project (Whipple Road-Industrial Pkwy) project was not of air quality concern.

**b. Confirm Projects Are Exempt from PM<sub>2.5</sub> Conformity**

**i. Projects Exempt Under 40 CFR 93.126 – Not of Air Quality Concern**

Harold Brazil (MTC) asked if Task Force members had questions and or comments on the **2b\_Exempt List 041219.pdf** exempt under 40 CFR 93.126. Task Force members had no comments.

**Final Determination:** With input from FTA, FHWA, EPA, Caltrans and MTC, the Task Force agreed that the projects on the exempt list (**2b\_Exempt List 041219.pdf**) are exempt from PM<sub>2.5</sub> project level analysis.

**c. Arroyo de Laguna Bridge Scour Project; Secondary Task Force Review**

Lucas Sanchez (Caltrans) indicated that he and Rodney Tavitas (Caltrans) had discussed the Arroyo de Laguna Bridge Scour project further with EPA and Caltrans District 4, and District 4 is prepared to accept the finding that the project is exempt from regional analysis per 40 CFR 93.127 “intersection channelization projects” as well as not a POAQC. Both Karina O’Connor (EPA) and Joseph Vaughn (FHWA) concurred with the determination.

**Final Determination:** With input from EPA, FHWA and Caltrans, the Task Force concluded that the Arroyo de Laguna Bridge Scour project was not of air quality concern.

**3. Projects with Regional Air Quality Conformity Concerns**

**a. Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New and Revised Projects**

Projects Staff Proposing to Include in the 2019 TIP

Adam Crenshaw (MTC) stated that MTC staff had received requests from sponsors to add eight new group listed project to the 2019 TIP. The Task Force had no further comments.

**4. Transportation Air Quality Conformity Redetermination for the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040**

Harold Brazil (MTC) notified the Task Force about the revised start date of the public comment period for the Conformity Redetermination for the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040. The revised schedule is shown below and the draft conformity analysis was provided directly to Task Force members after the meeting.

**Schedule for the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Draft Amended 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 (PBA2040)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Conformity Task Force Reviews Proposed Conformity Approach	March 28, 2019
MTC Staff Conducts Technical Analysis & Report Preparation	March/April 2019
Discuss Draft Conformity Analysis Release Date with AQCTF	April 25, 2019
Begin Public Review and Comment Period	<b>April 26, 2019</b>
Discuss Draft Conformity Analysis with AQCTF	May 23, 2019
End of Public Comment Period	<b>May 26, 2019</b>
Committee Approval	June 14, 2019
Commission Approval	June 26, 2019
Expected FHWA/FTA Final Approval of the Amended 2019 TIP and Amended PBA2040 AQ Conformity Analysis	July, 2019

**5. Consent Calendar**

**b. March 28, 2019 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary**

*Final Determination:* With input from all members, the Task Force concluded that the consent calendar was approved.