



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
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**October 26, 2023**

SENT VIA E-MAIL

[cotb@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cotb@arb.ca.gov)

California Air Resources Board  
Clerks' Office  
1001 I Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Liane M. Randolph, Chair  
California Air Resources Board (CARB)  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Addressing the Board on Subject Matter within the Board's Jurisdiction but Does Not Specifically Appear on the October 26, 2023 Board Meeting Agenda:  
Acknowledgement of CARB Board and Staff in Assisting Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in Resolving Regional Transportation Conformity Lockdown**

Dear Chair Liane Randolph:

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in Southern California. SCAG is responsible for developing the long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the short-term Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The RTP/SCS and the FTIP are required to demonstrate transportation conformity to allow implementation of thousands of regional transportation projects included in the RTP/SCS and the FTIP.

On behalf of SCAG, I am writing this public comment letter to acknowledge the substantial efforts and significant contributions of both the Board and your dedicated staff in assisting SCAG in resolving the transportation conformity lockdown.

Last year, the SCAG region went into a region-wide transportation conformity lockdown due to higher emission rates identified through

CARB testing of heavy-duty trucks in the EMFAC2017 model in many areas of the state, including the Coachella Valley in the SCAG region.

As part of the multi-agency efforts to lifting the conformity lockdown, CARB and South Coast AQMD staff worked together to reclassify the Coachella Valley ozone nonattainment area and updated the motor vehicle emission budgets.

I wish to express our gratitude to the Board for your timely approval last November. Your action, coupled with the subsequent EPA approval, played a critical role in lifting the conformity lockdown, which had impacted the implementation of approximately \$26 billion worth of critical transportation projects throughout the SCAG region.

I also wish to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Jen Gress, CARB Chief of the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division, for her support and leadership. Additionally, I would like to commend Ms. Sylvia Vanderspek, CARB Chief of the Air Quality Planning Branch, and her dedicated SIP team for their tremendous effort in successfully completing additional work amidst their already very busy schedule. I want to particularly acknowledge Dr. Nesamani Kalandiyur for his diligent and effective interagency coordination efforts and significant contributions. I am pleased to note that SCAG has issued a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Nesamani Kalandiyur as a token of our gratitude.

With the conformity lockdown now behind us, SCAG staff is looking forward to continuing our close collaboration on the development of SCAG's 2024 RTP/SCS as well as addressing other regional air quality planning challenges in the SCAG region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Jepson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Jepson  
Chief Planning Officer  
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[jepson@scag.ca.gov](mailto:jepson@scag.ca.gov)