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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

July 16, 2013

Mr. Robert Tally
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division
300 East 8th Street, Suite 826
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Tally:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents comprising the *Conformity Determination for Amendments to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update and the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area*, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). This conformity determination was required for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) ozone nonattainment area due to designation of the area by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as nonattainment under the 2008 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and a corresponding update to the Regional Transportation Plan. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is satisfied that transportation conformity has been demonstrated.

In order for the HGB ozone nonattainment area to demonstrate conformity, projected emissions from the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update and the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, as amended, must be equal to or less than the applicable motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs), as required under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93. Transportation emissions were projected for analysis years 2011, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2025, and 2035. Regional transportation emissions were compared to the MVEBs included in the HGB Attainment Demonstration (TCEQ Project No. 2009-017-SIP-NR) and Reasonable Further Progress (TCEQ Project No. 2009-018-SIP-NR) State Implementation Plan Revisions under the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS adopted March 10, 2010.

TCEQ air quality staff reviewed the documents. All issues were discussed in a series of conference calls and e-mails with H-GAC, the Federal Highway Administration, the EPA, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the TCEQ. All issues were resolved through this interagency consultation process.

The TCEQ is satisfied that requirements have been met and transportation conformity has been demonstrated. If you have any questions about our review, please contact Jamie Zech of my staff at 512-239-3935 or jamie.zech@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Brymer".

David Brymer
Director, Air Quality Division

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cc: Mr. Alan Clark, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Dr. Graciela Lubertino, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Mr. Jose Campos, Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Shundreka R. Givan, AICP, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Jeffrey Riley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Jackie Ploch, Texas Department of Transportation
Ms. Michelle Conkle, Texas Department of Transportation