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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

March 22, 2010

Mr. James L. Randall, P.E., Director
Transportation Planning and Programming Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Re: Conformity Determination for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Nonattainment Area

Dear Mr. Randall:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the conformity determination for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) nonattainment area, which was submitted for interagency consultation and review in January 2010. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is satisfied that all requirements have been met, as discussed below.

The HGB area is designated nonattainment for ozone. In order for the area to demonstrate transportation conformity, the area must show that projected emissions from the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2008 through 2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area is at or below the applicable state implementation plan (SIP) motor vehicle emissions budgets, as required under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93. Transportation emissions were projected for analysis years 2009, 2019, 2025, and 2035. Regional transportation emissions were compared to the 2008 motor vehicle emissions budget in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Reasonable Further Progress SIP adopted by the TCEQ on May 23, 2007.

The TCEQ air quality staff reviewed the documents. All issues were discussed in a series of conference calls and e-mails with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the Federal Highway Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 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 Ms. Margie McAllister of my staff at 512-239-1967 or mmcallis@tceq.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brymer".

David Brymer, Director
Air Quality Division

Mr. James L. Randall, P.E., Director

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cc: Mr. Alan C. Clark, Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Mr. Jose Campos, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Jeffrey Riley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Dianna F. Noble, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation
Ms. Peggy Thurin, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation