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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

November 7, 2007

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 August 2007. We are 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 2008-2011 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 the following analysis years: 2007, 2009, 2019, 2025, and 2035. Regional transportation emissions were compared to the motor vehicle emissions budgets for attainment year 2007 in the SIP revision adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) December 1, 2004, referred to as the mid-course review SIP.


The TCEQ air quality technical 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the TCEQ. The issues discussed centered on compliance with the federal surface transportation reauthorization act, and clarification of the demonstration of timely implementation of transportation control measures. All issues were resolved through this interagency consultation process.

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The TCEQ is satisfied 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,



 Susana M. Hildebrand, P.E., Director
Air Quality Division

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