



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

January 26, 2026

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Ms. Erin Thomson,
Office Chief, Regional
and Community Planning
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Mario Orso, Chief Executive Officer,
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

Attention: Rodney Tavitas, Chief
Air Quality Branch

SUBJECT: SANDAG 2025 Regional Plan, RTIP Amendment No. 11, and Associated Air
Quality Conformity Analysis

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our reviews of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2025 Regional Plan, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment No. 11, and the air quality conformity analysis submitted by SANDAG's letters dated December 12 2025, and January 20, 2022, respectfully.

Amendment No. 11, to SANDAG's 2025 RTIP includes changes to 30 projects and 11 grouped listings within San Diego County and reflects various changes requested by SANDAG and local agencies.

On December 12, 2025, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2025 Regional Plan and associated air quality conformity analysis. At its December 12, 2025, meeting, the SANDAG Board of Directors ratified the action taken by the SANDAG Transportation Committee to adopt Resolution No. 2026-07, approving Amendment No. 11.

An FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination is required pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Transportation Conformity Rule*, 40 Code of Regulations (CFR) Parts 51 and 93, and the United States Department of Transportation's *Metropolitan Planning Rule*, 23 CFR Part 450. The conformity analysis given by SANDAG indicates all air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review, we determined that the 2025 Regional Plan and the 2025 RTIP Amendment No. 11 conforms to the applicable state implementation plan in accordance with the

provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. SANDAG's conformity determination for the 2025 Regional Plan is consistent with its 2025 RTIP through Amendment No. 11. FHWA's conformity determination was coordinated with Region 9 of the EPA according to the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the EPA on Transportation Conformity* dated April 25, 2000.

Pursuant to the February 14, 2018, *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FHWA – California Division and FTA – Region 9*, and based on our review of information submitted with the State's proposed 2025 FSTIP, which includes revenues, proposed project funding information to demonstrate financial constraint, and statewide and metropolitan planning process documentation, we accept this modification proposed for the SANDAG region in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613 (see the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the May 27, 2016, Federal Register). We have determined SANDAG's amended portion of the California FSTIP, including the RTIP Amendment No. 11, is financially constrained as required by the Federal surface transportation programs authorizing legislation and statewide planning, metropolitan planning, and programming regulations. SANDAG's portion of the FSTIP was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 134 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Public Law 114-94 (the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act).

Our FSTIP amendment approval is being given with the understanding that an eligibility determination of individual projects for funding must be met, and the applicant must ensure the satisfaction of all administrative and statutory requirements.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning approval, please contact Michael Morris of the FHWA California Division's Cal-South Office at (213) 894-4014 or michael.morris@dot.gov; or Mervin Acebo of the FTA's Los Angeles Office at (213) 202-3957 or mervin.acebo@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Antonio D. Johnson
Director of Planning, Environment,
& Right of Way
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)

antonio.johnson@dot.gov

michael.morris@dot.gov

mervin.acebo@dot.gov

OConnor.Karina@epa.gov

kelly.johmj@epa.gov

Erin.Thompson@dot.ca.gov

nicholas.compin@dot.ca.gov

rodney.tavitas@dot.ca.gov

Brenda.H.Caruso@dot.ca.gov

roy.abboud@dot.ca.gov

Kirsten.Uchitel@sandag.org

Richard.radcliffe@sandag.org

Ryan.Williams@sandag.org