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May 22, 2003

Mr. Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Bank Plaza
980 9th Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Ms. Sue Kiser

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Mr. Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:
With this letter and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the following Amendment of the Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG) 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):

No.	Description
3	**Local Element** • Modifies funding of two projects in Merced County. The projects include funding from the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration approve this FTIP Amendment for inclusion into California's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Projects included in this FTIP in fiscal years not within the three-year cycle of the current FSTIP are not approved as part of this FTIP Amendment and are shown for information only.

The updated programming is for project types within Table 2 & 3 - Exempt Projects, of 40 CFR § 93.126 and 127 that are exempt from the conformity determination requirement. Therefore, this FTIP Amendment is consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis. These projects are included and submitted by MCAG through the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS). Caltrans concerns, if any, are reflected in the "Caltrans comment" section of the FTIP Project Data Entry screen in CTIPS project by project.

In accordance with existing law, public involvement procedures are a part of the project selection process. The MCAG prepared this FTIP Amendment under that process permitting citizens, affected local agencies, other public agencies, and other interested parties reasonable opportunity for comment.

Please address any questions on this FSTIP approval request to Muhaned Aljabiry of my staff, at (916) 654-3521.

Sincerely,

JIM NICHOLAS
Chief
Division of Transportation Programming

Enclosures

c: Steven Barhite - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
Jesse B. Brown - Merced County Association of Governments
Barbara Spears - Merced County Association of Governments
Muhaned Aljabiry - Caltrans