

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

December 14, 2011

Mr. Alexander Smith
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project, San Francisco, California (CEQ #20110372)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We commend the Federal Transit Administration and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority for seeking to improve transit service and the pedestrian environment in the Van Ness Avenue corridor. We also support efforts to reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff entering the combined sewer system and maximize onsite treatment, as proposed in the *San Francisco Better Streets Plan*, and encourage use of tools such as permeable paving, infiltration planters, vegetated swales, and rain gardens in final design of the project.

We have rated this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as LO, *Lack of Objections*. Please see the attached *Rating Factors* for a description of our rating system.

Also, please note that San Francisco County is federally designated as nonattainment for PM_{2.5}, in addition to ozone, as indicated in the text of the DEIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one CD copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Mulvihill, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosures:
Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

cc: Rachel Hiatt, San Francisco County Transportation Authority