

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

February 17, 2012

Mr. Ray Tellis
Federal Transit Administration
Los Angeles Metropolitan Office
888 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1850
Los Angeles, California 90017

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project, Los Angeles, California (CEQ # 20120011)

Dear Mr. Tellis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document. As described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), this project proposes to construct a light rail connector in downtown Los Angeles that will directly link the tracks of the Metro Gold Line light rail system with the Metro Blue Line and future Metro Expo Line. Our comments are provided 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.

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provided comments to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in our letter of October 8, 2010. We rated the project Lack of Objections (LO), but had minor concerns about construction emissions, localized air quality impacts due to increased congestion, and integration of smart growth and sustainability principles. We appreciate the changes made to the document and additional mitigation measures which have been committed to in the FEIS and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to address our concerns, as well as the additional analysis of impacts to potential sensitive receptors in the project area. Furthermore, we commend FTA for the expanded discussion in the FEIS of smart growth and opportunities to encourage multimodal transportation in the project area. Based on FTA's response to EPA's comments, we have no further concerns with the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact Clifton Meek, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3370 or meeck.clifton@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

cc: Dolores Roybal-Saltarelli, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Ray Sukys, Federal Transit Administration