

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

August 12, 2013

Smita Deshpande
Branch Chief
Caltrans-District 12
Attn: 405 Supplemental Draft EIS
2201 Dupont Drive, Suite 200
Irvine, California 92612

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) Improvement Project between State Route 73 and Interstate 605 in Orange County, California (CEQ #20130185)

Dear Ms. Deshpande:

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 previously reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project and provided comments in a July 17, 2012 letter. We rated the DEIS as EC-2, *Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information* due to potential air quality impacts and a need to assess induced travel demand for the project. This Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) is a limited-scope document that provides information on potential project-related traffic effects within the City of Long Beach. We are rating the limited scope of actions assessed in this SDEIS as LO, *Lack of Objections*. Please note that we have continuing concerns regarding the project as described in our July 17, 2012 letter (attached) and look forward to a discussion of those issues in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Please see the attached *Summary of EPA Rating Definitions* for a description of our rating system.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this SDEIS. When the FEIS is released for public review, please send one hard copy and one electronic copy to the address above (mail code:

CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact Clifton Meek, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3370 or meek.clifton@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Clifton Meek /s/ for

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

Enclosures: EPA Comment (July 17, 2012) letter on the DEIS
Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

Cc via email: John Chisholm, Caltrans
Ron Kosinski, Caltrans District 7
Rich Macias, SCAG