

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

September 10, 2015

Achille Alonzi, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division
300 E. 8th Street, Rm 826
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents comprising the *Transportation Air Quality Conformity Report for Houston-Brazoria-Galveston Region* submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). The purpose of this conformity analysis was to determine if H-GAC's 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program are consistent with area emissions requirements for ozone. An eight-county area in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) region is designated nonattainment for ozone: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.

In order for conformity to be demonstrated for the HGB ozone nonattainment area, projected ozone emissions from the transportation plan and transportation improvement program must be equal to or less than the applicable motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), as required under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93. Regional transportation emissions were projected for analysis years 2015, 2017, 2018, 2025, 2035, and 2040 and then compared to the NO_x and VOC MVEB established in the *Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets Update State Implementation Plan Revision*, which was approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effective February 3, 2014.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) air quality staff reviewed the transportation conformity determination documents. All issues were addressed and resolved in a series of meetings, consultative calls, and e-mails with H-GAC, the Federal Highway Administration, the EPA, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the TCEQ.

The TCEQ is satisfied that all requirements have been met and transportation conformity has been demonstrated. If you have any questions about our review, please contact Jamie Zech of my staff at 512-239-3935 or jamie.zech@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kellie or David Brymer".

David Brymer, Director
Air Quality Division

Cc: Mr. Jose Campos, Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Barbara Maley, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Guy Donaldson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Jeffrey Riley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Carlos Swonke, Texas Department of Transportation
Mr. Marc D. Williams, Texas Department of Transportation
Ms. Janie Temple, Texas Department of Transportation
Ms. Jackie Ploch, Texas Department of Transportation
Mr. Alan Clark, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Dr. Graciela Lubertino, Houston-Galveston Area Council