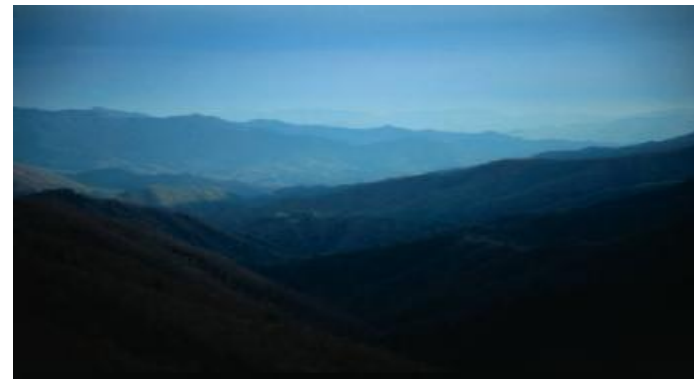


# **Transportation Conformity in the San Joaquin Valley**



**Council of Fresno County  
Governments**

**December 7, 2005**

# Summary

- | Conformity Overview and Requirements
- | Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)
- | Conformity Consequences
- | Important Stuff!

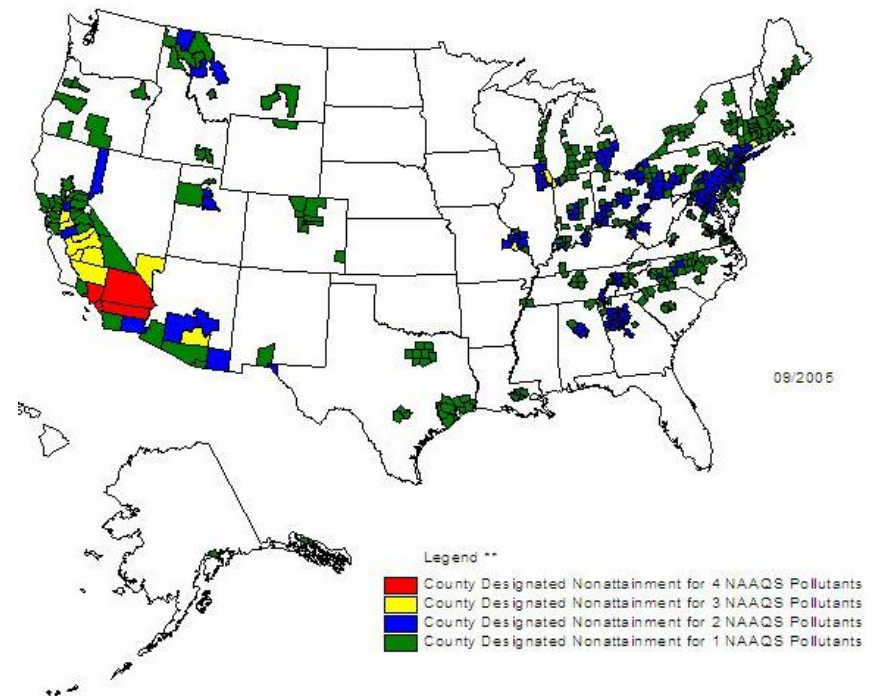
# What is Conformity?

- I Transportation plans, programs, and projects must
  - **NOT** negatively impact air quality
  - “Conform” with approved State Implementation Plans
- I Quantifies impacts of transportation and land use decisions
- I Criteria specified in the Federal conformity rule
- I Required for all nonattainment areas

# Valley Air Quality Status

- I Areas that violate National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are designated “nonattainment”
- I 8-HOUR OZONE (2013 Attainment Date)
- I PARTICULATE MATTER
  - PM-10, PM2.5 (2010 Attainment Date)
- I Carbon Monoxide (CO)
  - Four “Maintenance” Areas in the Valley
  - Fresno, Kern, San Joaquin, Stanislaus Counties

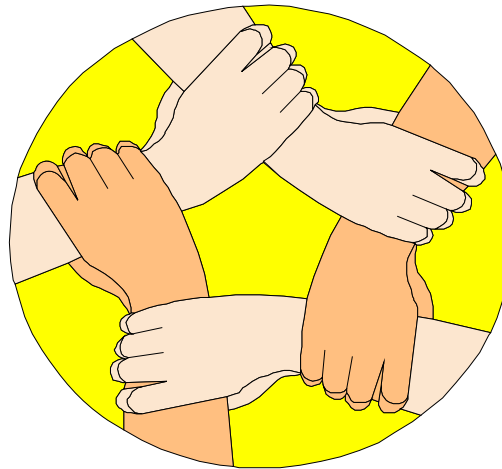
Counties Designated "Nonattainment"  
for Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) \*



# Agency Roles

MPO/RTPA perform conformity analysis and related activities

EPA, ARB, Caltrans, Air District participate in the process and provide comments



FHWA/FTA approves or disapproves conformity demonstration

# When do you “do” Conformity?

- I New transportation plan/program or amendment
  - FHWA TIP Amendment Table
- I At least every 3 years for transportation plan/program
- I Within 18 months of submittal or approval of new or revised air quality plans

# SAFETEA-LU

- | Updates required frequency to 4 years
- | Within 2 years of certain actions on air quality plans
- | Shorten the time horizon for conformity demonstration
- | 12 month conformity lapse grace period
- | Transportation Control Measure (TCM) substitution

# State Implementation Plans (“SIPs”)

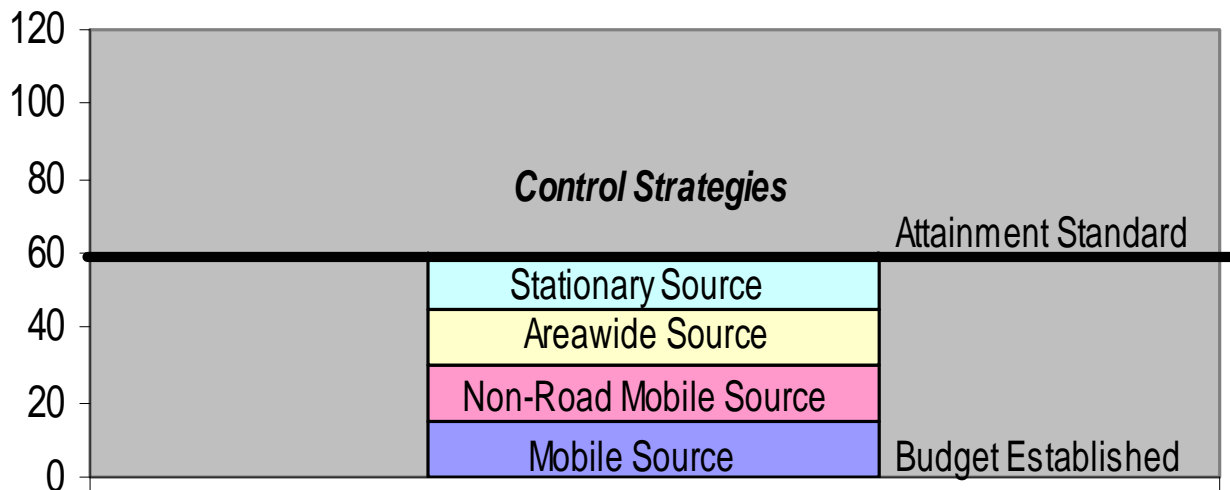
- I The “nonattainment” area (usually the Air District) must develop a plan for how to reach air quality attainment
- I Plans are developed for each pollutant, so each air basin may have several SIPs.
- I Conformity is intended to help the SIP achieve the goal of attaining the NAAQS





# Mobile Source Emission Budgets

## Project Emissions, Apply Control Strategies, and Establish Mobile Source Budget



- I Acts as a ceiling on emissions for attainment year and beyond.
- I Emissions analysis of your plan and program needs to show that you are within the SIP mobile budget.

# Conformity Modeling

## I Conformity modeling process

- Latest Planning Assumptions (population, employment)
- Transportation Modeling
- Regional Emissions Analysis – Horizon Years

	2008	2010	2013	2020	2030
Ozone*	X	X	X	X	X

## I Based on SIP if an adequate or approved budget is in place

- If no budget is adequate or approved, then conformity is based on *either* Build/No Build *or* less-than-baseline

# Transportation Control Measures

- I Conformity Rule requires that the RTP & TIP:
  - “must provide for the timely implementation of TCMs in the applicable implementation plan”
  
- I Many agencies in the San Joaquin Valley have TCMs that were approved as part of the PM-10 Plan
  
- I Need to demonstrate:
  - Priority is given to TCMs
  - RTP/TIP do not interfere with implementation of any TCM
  
- I Formal substitution process necessary to replace TCM

# Required Public Process

- | Interagency consultation review
- | Public notice
- | Minimum 30 day public review period
- | Public hearing
- | Public comments must be addressed
- | Any adverse comments (public or private) can lead to disapproval by FHWA/FTA



# Conformity Lapse

- Conformity determination has expired
  - | No currently conforming RTP/TIP
- 6 types of projects may proceed
  - | TCMs in approved SIPs
  - | Non-regionally significant, non-federal projects
  - | Approved regionally significant non-federal projects
  - | Previously conformed projects (funding commitments)
  - | Exempt projects
  - | Traffic synchronization projects



# Other Potential Consequences

- I Highway Sanctions
- I Conformity Freeze
  - Projects in the first 3 years of the RTP/TIP may proceed
  - Exempt projects may proceed
- I Conformity “Lockdown”
  - Cannot make a positive conformity finding due to timing of agency actions

# IMPORTANT STUFF!

- I Become familiar with the MPO process
- I **CONSULT WITH THE MPO EARLY IN THE PROCESS**
- I If a TIP amendment requires a new conformity determination, it will require additional time and approvals
  - Currently develop individual conformity determinations
  - After April 2006, all 8 San Joaquin Valley MPOs must coordinate conformity determinations

# IMPORTANT STUFF! (CONT.)

- I Project type and funding source is important
  - Financial constraint, regionally significant, capacity increasing, exempt, etc.
  
- I Provide MPO with “Open to Traffic” year and other relevant project information
  
- I CMAQ Projects
  - Calculate emission benefits PRIOR to programming
  - Confirm exempt or non-exempt status for conformity
  
- I PM2.5 Project Level Analysis



# Contact Information

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**QUESTIONS??**

**COMMENTS!!**

