



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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July 20, 2012

Ronald Kosinski
Caltrans District 7, Division of Environmental Planning
100 S. Main Street, MS 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: I710 Corridor Project Draft EIR/EIS

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is writing in response to your letter in which you identify that the Caltrans Division of Environmental Planning will not extend the review period for the Draft EIR/EIS for the I-710 Corridor Project beyond August 29th, 2012. While we agree that the public review period for an EIR submitted to the State Clearinghouse is typically forty-five days, we would like to remind you that this timeline is not triggered until the public agency has provided complete copies of the environmental document for public review. (*Ultramar, Inc. v. South Coast Air Quality Management Dist.* (1993) 17 Cal.App.4th 689, 700.)

The Draft EIR/EIS for the I-710 Corridor Project relies on modeling files and electronic spreadsheet files to support its analysis. It is our understanding that these files were used to support the significance determinations in the Draft EIR/EIS. CEQA mandates that summarized technical information must permit full assessment by reviewing agencies and also requires that information incorporated by reference be made available for public review. (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15147, 15150.) As you may be aware, the AQMD staff has been requesting to receive this information since June 28, 2012. At that time, your staff indicated that the files were not immediately available but would request that your consultant make the files available by July 26, 2012.

The AQMD is the regional agency with responsibility for ensuring that ambient air quality standards are met within the South Coast Air Basin, in which your project will be located. Our staff has the technical expertise to thoroughly evaluate the air quality analysis within the Draft EIR/EIS and we consider our review of technical files to be vital to our ability to provide meaningful comment on CEQA documents. It is, in fact, standard practice that lead agencies provide electronic copies of all technical files to the AQMD as part of the CEQA review process.

Thus, please be advised that our request for an extension of time is based solely on the failure of Caltrans to make the modeling files and electronic spreadsheets available to the public at the beginning of the public comment period. Furthermore, based on the foregoing, we are of the position that the review period does not begin to run until these files are made available to the public. We look forward to your cooperation and hope to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either myself or Susan Nakamura at (909) 396-3105.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Baird".

Barbara Baird,
District Counsel