



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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*Office of the Executive Officer
Barry Wallerstein, D.Env.*

September 8, 2009

Mr. Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: City of Anaheim, California (Orange County) - Gene Autry Way (West)
Highway/Interstate 5 HOV Interchange Project**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) strongly supports the City of Anaheim's efforts to secure Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds for the Gene Autry Way (West) Highway/I-5 HOV Interchange Project. AQMD is committed to protecting the health of residents and thus supports the City of Anaheim's proposed project, which will reduce air pollutants.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. This area is home to over 16 million people, about half the population of the entire state of California. It is also the smoggiest region of the United States. The City of Anaheim's proposed project will complete a planned high occupancy vehicle (HOV) facility, resulting in higher average vehicle occupancy (AVO) and fewer motor vehicle trips, which would lower pollutants generated by vehicles. AQMD staff concurs with the City of Anaheim's estimates that this project will also improve traffic flow and reduce congestion related vehicle idling times on the I-5, yielding significant amounts of emission reductions.

The South Coast AQMD is dedicated to undertaking all necessary steps to protect public health from air pollution, with sensitivity to the impacts of its actions on the community and businesses. We urge your consideration for this vital transportation project which will not only result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions but will also have the co-benefit of reducing NO_x, VOC and PM_{2.5} pollutants from mobile sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry R. Wallerstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer