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October 7, 2009

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Commissioner Bob Alvarado, Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, MS 52  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Commissioner Alvarado,

SUBJECT: 2010 RTP Guidelines Update

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The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the first major Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that complies with the provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008). As such, SANDAG strongly encourages the California Transportation Commission (Commission) to adhere to its original schedule outlined during the July 1, 2009, RTP Guidelines Update kick-off meeting and adopt the revised RTP Guidelines following the public hearings scheduled for January and February 2010.

The SANDAG 2050 RTP work schedule, as discussed by our Board of Directors, calls for the release of the draft plan in February 2011 and adoption of the final RTP, including the air quality conformity finding and Environmental Impact Report certification by July 2011. Delays in adoption of the updated guidelines will jeopardize the completion of SANDAG's 2050 RTP on schedule and risk a lapse in federal conformity.

We appreciate the complex and inclusive process the Commission has undertaken to integrate new requirements of SB 375 with state and federal transportation planning requirements. We encourage the Commission to continue taking the necessary steps to guide the process to a timely completion. SANDAG will continue to develop the 2050 RTP and its first Sustainable Communities Strategy even in the absence of the updated guidelines, but timely guidance from the Commission is vital for SANDAG's ability to develop a new RTP that complies with SB 375.

If you have any questions regarding SANDAG concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
GARY L. GALLEGOS  
Executive Director

Cc: Commissioners, California Transportation Commission  
Bimla Rhinehart, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission  
Randell Iwasaki, Director, Caltrans