

**REGULATION XV: FEDERAL CONFORMITY**  
(Adopted 3/7/95; EPA Approval Effective 6/2299)

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**REGULATION XV. FEDERAL CONFORMITY** (Adopted 3/7/95; EPA Approval  
Effective June 22, 1999)

**RULE 1501. CONFORMITY OF GENERAL FEDERAL ACTIONS**

**§1551.850 - PROHIBITION**

(a) The purpose of Rule 1501 is to assure that Federal Agencies do not take or support actions which are in any way inconsistent with the efforts of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (the District) to achieve the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and that federal agencies do not fail to take advantage of opportunities to assist in the achievement of the NAAQS. Under the Clean Air Act Section 176(c), as amended (42 U.S.C. 7506(c) et. seq.) and regulations under 40 CFR part 51 Subpart W, no department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for, license or permit, or approve any activity which does not conform to an applicable implementation plan.

(b) A Federal agency must make a determination that a Federal action conforms to the applicable implementation plan in accordance with the requirements of this rule before the action is taken.

(c) The preceding sentence does not include Federal actions where either:

(1) A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis was completed as evidenced by a final Environmental Assessment (EA), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that was prepared prior to the effective date of this rule, or

(2) (i) Prior to the effective date of this rule, an EA was commenced or a contract was awarded to develop the specific environmental analysis,

(ii) Sufficient environmental analysis was completed by March 15, 1994 so that the Federal agency may determine that the Federal action is in conformity with the specific requirements and the purposes of the applicable SIP pursuant to the agency's affirmative obligation under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (Act), and

(iii) A written determination of conformity under Section 176(c) of the Act was made by the Federal agency responsible for the Federal action by March 15, 1994.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of Rule 1501, a determination that an action is in conformance with the applicable implementation plan does not exempt the action from any other requirements of the applicable implementation plan, the NEPA, or the Act.

## §1551.851- STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SIP) REVISION

(a) The Federal conformity rules under 40 CFR part 51 Subpart W and 40 CFR part 93, in addition to any existing applicable State requirements, establish the conformity criteria and procedures necessary to meet the Act requirements until such time as the required conformity SIP revision is approved by EPA. Following EPA approval of the conformity provisions (or a portion thereof) in a revision to the SIP, the approved (or approved portion of the) criteria and procedures would govern conformity determinations and the Federal conformity regulations contained in 40 CFR part 93 would apply only for the portion, if any, of the District's conformity provisions that is not approved by EPA. In addition, any previously applicable SIP requirements relating to conformity remain enforceable until the SIP is revised to specifically remove them from the SIP and that revision is approved by EPA.

## §1551.852 - DEFINITIONS

Terms used but not defined in this part shall have the meaning given them by the federal Clean Air Act ("Act") and EPA's regulations, in that order of priority.

**Affected Federal land manager** means the Federal agency or the Federal official charged with direct responsibility for management of an area designated as Class I under 42 U.S.C. 7472 of the Act that is located within 100 km of the proposed Federal action.

**Applicable implementation plan or applicable SIP** means the portion (or portions) of the SIP or most recent revision thereof, which has been approved under Section 110 of the Act, or promulgated under Section 110(c) of the Act (Federal implementation plan), or promulgated or approved pursuant to regulations promulgated under Section 301(d) of the Act and which implements the relevant requirements of the Act.

**Areawide air quality modeling analysis** means an assessment on a scale that includes the entire nonattainment or maintenance area which uses an air quality dispersion model to determine the effects of emissions on air quality.

**Cause or contribute to a new violation** means a Federal action that:

(1) Causes a new violation of a national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) at a location in a nonattainment or maintenance area which would otherwise not be in violation of the standard during the future period in question if the Federal action were not taken, or

(2) Contributes, in conjunction with other reasonably foreseeable actions, to a new violation of a NAAQS at a location in a nonattainment or maintenance area in a manner that would increase the frequency or severity of the new violation.

**Caused by**, as used in the terms "direct emissions" and "indirect emissions," means emissions that would not otherwise occur in the absence of the Federal action.

**Criteria pollutant or standard** means any pollutant for which there is established a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (“NAAQS”) at 40 CFR part 50.

**Direct emissions** means those emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors that are caused or initiated by the Federal action and occur at the same time and place as the action.

**Emergency** means a situation where extremely quick action on the part of the Federal agencies involved is needed and where the timing of such Federal activities makes it impractical to meet the requirements of this rule, such as natural disasters like hurricanes or earthquakes, civil disturbances such as terrorist acts, and military mobilizations.

**Emissions budgets** are those portions of the applicable SIP's projected emissions inventories that describe the levels of emissions (mobile, stationary, area, etc.) that provide for meeting reasonable further progress milestones, attainment, and/or maintenance for any criteria pollutant or its precursors.

**Emission offsets**, for purposes of Section 1551.858, are emissions reductions which are quantifiable, consistent with the applicable SIP attainment and reasonable further progress demonstrations, surplus to reductions required by, and credited to, other applicable SIP provisions, enforceable at both the State and Federal levels, and permanent within the time frame specified by the program.

**Emissions that a Federal agency has a continuing program responsibility for** means emissions that are specifically caused by an agency carrying out its authorities, and does not include emissions that occur due to subsequent activities, unless such activities are required by the Federal agency. Where an agency, in performing its normal program responsibilities, takes actions itself or imposes conditions that result in air pollutant emissions by a non-Federal entity taking subsequent actions, such emissions are covered by the meaning of a continuing program responsibility.

**EPA** means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**Federal action** means any activity engaged in by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government, or any activity that a department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal government supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, licenses, permits, or approves, other than activities related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). Where the Federal action is a permit, license, or other approval for some aspect of a non-Federal undertaking, the relevant activity is the part, portion, or phase or the non-Federal undertaking that requires the Federal permit, license, or approval.

**Federal agency** means, for purposes of this rule, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government.

**Increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation of a standard in any area** means to cause a nonattainment area to exceed a standard more often or to cause a violation at a greater concentration than previously existed and/or would otherwise exist during the future period in question, if the project were not implemented.

**Indirect emissions** means those emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors that:

(1) Are caused by the Federal action, but may occur later in time and/or may be farther removed in distance from the action itself but are still reasonably foreseeable, and

(2) The Federal agency can practicably control and will maintain control over due to a continuing program responsibility of the Federal agency, including, but not limited to, (i) traffic on or to, or stimulated or accommodated by, a proposed facility which is related to increases or other changes in the scale or timing of operations of such facility; (ii) emissions related to the activities of employees of contractors or Federal employees; (iii) emissions related to employee commutation; (iv) emissions related to the use of Federal facilities under lease or temporary permit; (v) emissions related to the activities of contractors or leaseholders that may be addressed by provisions that are usual and customary for contracts or leases or within the scope of contractual protection of the interests of the United States.

**Local air quality modeling analysis** means an assessment of localized impacts on a scale smaller than the entire nonattainment or maintenance area, including, for example, congested roadway intersections and highways or transit terminals, which uses an air quality dispersion model to determine the effects of emissions on air quality.

**Maintenance area** means an area with a maintenance plan approved under Section 175A of the Act.

**Maintenance plan** means a revision to the applicable SIP, meeting the requirements of Section 175A of the Act.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization** (MPO) is that organization designated as being responsible, together with the State, for conducting the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 1607. The San Diego Association of Governments is the designated MPO in San Diego County.

**Milestone** has the meaning given in Sections 182(g)(1) and 189(c)(1) of the Act.

**National ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)** are those standards established pursuant to Section 109 of the Act and include standards for carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone, particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>).

**NEPA** is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

**Nonattainment Area** (NAA) means an area designated as nonattainment under Section 107 of the Act and described in 40 CFR part 81.

**Precursors of a criteria pollutant are:**

(1) For ozone, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), unless an area is exempted from NO<sub>x</sub> requirements under Section 182(f) of the Act, and volatile organic compounds (VOC), and

(2) For PM<sub>10</sub>, those pollutants described in the PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment area applicable SIP as significant contributors to the PM<sub>10</sub> levels.

**Reasonably foreseeable emissions** are projected future indirect emissions that are identified at the time the conformity determination is made; the location of such emissions is known and the emissions are quantifiable, as described and documented by the Federal agency based on its own information and after reviewing any information presented to the Federal agency.

**Regionally significant action** means a Federal action for which the direct and indirect emissions of any pollutant represent 10 percent or more of a nonattainment or maintenance area's emissions inventory for that pollutant.

**Regional water and/or wastewater projects** include construction, operation, and maintenance of water or wastewater conveyances, water or wastewater treatment facilities, and water storage reservoirs which affect a large portion of a nonattainment or maintenance area.

**Total of direct and indirect emissions** means the sum of direct and indirect emissions increases and decreases caused by the Federal action; i.e., the "net" emissions considering all direct and indirect emissions. The portion of emissions which are exempt or presumed to conform under Section 1551.853, paragraph (c), (d), (e), or (f) are not included in the "total of direct and indirect emissions." The "total of direct and indirect emissions" includes emissions of criteria pollutants and emissions of precursors of criteria pollutants. The segmentation of projects for conformity analyses when emissions are reasonably foreseeable is not permitted.

**§1551.853 - APPLICABILITY**

(a) Conformity determinations for Federal actions related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) must meet the procedures and criteria of 40 CFR part 51, subpart T, in lieu of the procedures set forth in Rule 1501.

(b) For Federal actions not covered by paragraph (a) of this section, a conformity determination is required for each pollutant where the total of direct and indirect emissions in a nonattainment or maintenance area caused by a Federal action would equal or exceed any of the rates in paragraphs (b)(1) or (2) of this section.

(1) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following rates apply in **nonattainment areas (NAAs)**:

	<u><b>Tons/Year</b></u>
<b>Ozone (VOCs or NOx)</b>	
Serious NAAs	50
Severe NAAs	25
Extreme NAAs	10
Other ozone NAAs outside an ozone transport region	100
Marginal and moderate NAAs inside an ozone transport region	
VOC	50
NOx	100
<b>Carbon monoxides</b>	
All NAAs	100
<b>SO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>2</sub></b>	
All NAAs	100
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	
Moderate NAAs	100
Serious NAAs	70
<b>Pb</b>	
All NAAs	25

(2) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following rates apply in **maintenance areas**:

	<u><b>Tons/Year</b></u>
<b>Ozone (NOx), SO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>2</sub></b>	
All Maintenance Areas	100
<b>Ozone (VOCs)</b>	
Maintenance areas inside an ozone transport region	50
Maintenance areas outside an ozone transport region	100
<b>Carbon monoxides</b>	
All maintenance areas	100
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	
All maintenance areas	100
<b>Pb</b>	
All maintenance areas	25

(c) The requirements of Rule 1501 shall not apply to:

(1) Actions where the total of direct and indirect emissions are below the emissions levels specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) The following actions which would result in no emissions increase or an increase in emissions that is clearly de minimis:

(i) Judicial and legislative proceedings.

(ii) Continuing and recurring activities such as permit renewals where activities conducted will be similar in scope and operation to activities currently being conducted.

(iii) Rulemaking and policy development and issuance.

(iv) Routine maintenance and repair activities, including repair and maintenance of administrative sites, roads, trails, and facilities.

(v) Civil and criminal enforcement activities, such as investigations, audits, inspections, examinations, prosecutions, and the training of law enforcement personnel.

(vi) Administrative actions such as personnel actions, organizational changes, debt management or collection, cash management, internal agency audits, program budget proposals, and matters relating to the administration and collection of taxes, duties and fees.

(vii) The routine, recurring transportation of materiel and personnel.

(viii) Routine movement of mobile assets, such as ships and aircraft, in home port reassignments and stations (when no new support facilities or personnel are required) to perform as operational groups and/or for repair or overhaul.

(ix) Maintenance dredging and debris disposal where no new depths are required, applicable permits are secured, and disposal will be at an approved disposal site.

(x) Actions, such as the following, with respect to existing structures, properties, facilities and lands where future activities conducted will be similar in scope and operation to activities currently being conducted at the existing structures, properties, facilities, and lands; for example, relocation of personnel, disposition of federally owned existing structures, properties, facilities, and lands, rent subsidies, operation and maintenance cost subsidies, the exercise of receivership or conservatorship authority, assistance in purchasing structures, and the production of coins and currency.

(xi) The granting of leases, licenses such as for exports and trade, permits, and easements where activities conducted will be similar in scope and operation to activities currently being conducted.

(xii) Planning, studies, and provision of technical assistance.

(xiii) Routine operation of facilities, mobile assets and equipment.

(xiv) Transfers of ownership, interests, and titles in land, facilities, and real and personal properties, regardless of the form or method of the transfer.

(xv) The designation of empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or viticultural areas.

(xvi) Actions by any of the Federal banking agencies or the Federal Reserve Banks, including actions regarding charters, applications, notices, licenses, the supervision or examination of depository institutions or depository institution holding companies, access to the discount window, or the provision of financial services to banking organizations or to any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States.

(xvii) Actions by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any Federal Reserve Bank to effect monetary or exchange rate policy.

(xviii) Actions that implement a foreign affairs function of the United States.

(xix) Actions (or portions thereof) associated with transfers of land, facilities, title, and real properties through an enforceable contract or lease agreement where the delivery of the deed is required to occur promptly after a specific, reasonable condition is met, such as promptly after the land is certified as meeting the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and where the Federal agency does not retain continuing authority to control emissions associated with the lands, facilities, title, or real properties.

(xx) Transfers of real property, including land, facilities, and related personal property from a Federal entity to another Federal entity and assignments of real property, including land, facilities, and related personal property from a Federal entity to another Federal entity for subsequent deeding to eligible applicants.

(xxi) Actions by the Department of the Treasury to effect fiscal policy and to exercise the borrowing authority of the United States.

(3) Actions where the emissions are not reasonably foreseeable, such as the following:

(i) Initial Outer Continental Shelf lease sales which are made on a broad scale and are followed by exploration and development plans on a project level.

(ii) Electric power marketing activities that involve the acquisition, sale and transmission of electric energy.

(4) Individual Actions which implement a decision to conduct or carry out a program that has been found to conform to the applicable implementation plan, such as prescribed burning actions which are consistent with a land management plan that has been found to conform to the applicable implementation plan.

(d) Notwithstanding the other requirements of Rule 1501, a conformity determination is not required for the following Federal actions (or portion thereof):

(1) The portion of an action that includes major new or modified stationary sources that require a permit under the new source review (NSR) program (Section 173 of the Act) or the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) program (Title I, part C of the Act).

(2) Actions in response to emergencies or natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, etc., which are commenced on the order of hours or days after the emergency or disaster and, if applicable, which meet the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section;

(3) Research, investigations, studies, demonstrations, or training [other than those exempted under Section 1551.853(c)(2)], where no environmental detriment is incurred and/or, the particular action furthers air quality research, as determined by the State agency primarily responsible for the applicable SIP;

(4) Alteration and additions of existing structures as specifically required by new or existing applicable environmental legislation or environmental regulations (e.g., hush houses for aircraft engines and scrubbers for air emissions).

(5) Direct emissions from remedial and removal actions carried out under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and associated regulations to the extent such emissions either comply with the substantive requirements of the PSD/NSR permitting program or are exempted from other environmental regulation under the provisions of CERCLA and applicable regulations issued under CERCLA.

(e) Federal actions which are part of a continuing response to an emergency or disaster under Section 1551.853(d)(2) and which are to be taken more than 6 months after the commencement of the response to the emergency or disaster under Section 1551.853(d)(2) are exempt from the requirements of Rule 1501 only if:

(1) The Federal agency taking the actions makes a written determination that, for a specified period not to exceed an additional 6 months, it is impractical to prepare the conformity analyses which would otherwise be required and the actions cannot be delayed due to overriding concerns for public health and welfare, national security interests and foreign policy commitments; or

(2) For actions which are to be taken after those actions covered by paragraph (e)(1) of this section, the Federal agency makes a new determination as provided in paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(f) Notwithstanding other requirements of Rule 1501, actions specified by individual Federal agencies that have met the criteria set forth in either paragraph (g)(1) or (g)(2) and the procedures set forth in paragraph (h) of this section are presumed to conform, except as provided in paragraph (j) of this section.

(g) The Federal agency must meet the criteria for establishing activities that are presumed to conform by fulfilling the requirements set forth in either paragraph (g)(1) or (g)(2) of this section:

(1) The Federal agency must clearly demonstrate using methods consistent with this rule that the total of direct and indirect emissions from the type of activities which would be presumed to conform would not:

(i) Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area;

(ii) Interfere with provisions in the applicable SIP for maintenance of any standard;

(iii) Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or

(iv) Delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestones in any area including, where applicable, emission levels specified in the applicable SIP for purposes of:

(A) A demonstration of reasonable further progress;

(B) A demonstration of attainment; or

(C) A maintenance plan; or

(2) The Federal agency must provide documentation that the total of direct and indirect emissions from such future actions would be below the emission rates for a conformity determination that are established in paragraph (b) of this section, based, for example, on similar actions taken over recent years.

(h) In addition to meeting the criteria for establishing exemptions set forth in paragraphs (g)(1) or (g)(2) of this section, the following procedures must also be complied with to presume that activities will conform:

(1) The Federal agency must identify through publication in the Federal Register its list of proposed activities that are presumed to conform, the basis for the presumptions, and the means for obtaining access to documentation of the analysis, assumptions, emission factors, and criteria used as the basis for the presumptions;

(2) The Federal agency must notify the appropriate EPA Regional Office(s), State and local air quality agencies and, where applicable, the agency designated under Section 174 of the Act and the MPO and provide at least 30 days for the public to comment on the list of proposed activities presumed to conform;

(3) The Federal agency must document its response to all the comments received and make the comments, response, and final list of activities available to the public upon request; and

(4) The Federal agency must publish the final list of such activities in the Federal Register.

(i) Notwithstanding the other requirements of Rule 1501, when the total of direct and indirect emissions of any pollutant from a Federal action does not equal or exceed the rates specified in paragraph (b) of this section, but represents 10 percent or more of a nonattainment or maintenance area's total emissions of that pollutant, the action is defined as a regionally significant action and the requirements of Section 1551.850 and Sections 1551.855-860 shall apply for the Federal action.

(j) Where an action otherwise presumed to conform under paragraph (f) of this section is a regionally significant action or does not in fact meet one of the criteria in paragraph (g)(1) of this section, that action shall not be presumed to conform and the requirements of Section 1551.850 and Sections 1551.855-860 shall apply for the Federal action.

(k) The provisions of Rule 1501 shall apply in all nonattainment and maintenance areas.

#### **§1551.854 - CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

Any Federal department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government taking an action subject to Rule 1501 must make its own conformity determination consistent with the requirements of Rule 1501. In making its conformity determination, a Federal agency must consider comments from any interested parties. Where multiple Federal agencies have jurisdiction for various aspects of a project, a Federal agency may choose to adopt the analysis of another Federal agency or develop its own analysis in order to make its conformity determination.

## **§1551.855 - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

(a) A Federal agency making a conformity determination under Section 1551.858 must provide to the appropriate EPA Regional Office(s), State and local air quality agencies and, where applicable, affected Federal land managers, the agency designated under Section 174 of the Act and the MPO a 30-day notice which describes the proposed action and the Federal agency's draft conformity determination on the action.

(b) A Federal agency must notify the appropriate EPA Regional Office(s), State and local air quality agencies and, where applicable, affected Federal land managers, the agency designated under Section 174 of the Clean Air Act and the MPO within 30 days after making a final conformity determination under Section 1551.858.

## **§1551.856 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) Upon request by any person regarding a specific Federal action, a Federal agency must make available for review its draft conformity determination under Section 1551.858 with supporting materials which describe the analytical methods and conclusions relied upon in making the applicability analysis and draft conformity determination.

(b) A Federal agency must make public its draft conformity determination under Section 1551.858 by placing a notice by prominent advertisement in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the action and by providing 30 days for written public comment prior to taking any formal action on the draft determination. This comment period may be concurrent with any other public involvement, such as occurs in the NEPA process.

(c) A Federal agency must document its response to all the comments received on its draft conformity determination under Section 1551.858 and make the comments and responses available, upon request by any person regarding a specific Federal action, within 30 days of the **final** conformity determination.

(d) A Federal agency must make public its final conformity determination under Section 1551.858 for a Federal action by placing a notice by prominent advertisement in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the action within 30 days of the final conformity determination.

## **§1551.857 - FREQUENCY OF CONFORMITY DETERMINATIONS**

(a) The conformity status of a Federal action automatically lapses 5 years from the date a final conformity determination is reported under Section 1551.855, unless the Federal action has been completed or a continuous program has been commenced to implement that Federal action within a reasonable time.

(b) Ongoing Federal activities at a given site showing continuous progress are not new actions and do not require periodic redeterminations so long as such activities are within the scope of the final conformity determination reported under Section 1551.855.

(c) If, after the conformity determination is made, the Federal action is changed so that there is an increase in the total of direct and indirect emissions above the levels in section 1551.853(b), a new conformity determination is required.

#### **§1551.858 - CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CONFORMITY OF GENERAL FEDERAL ACTIONS**

(a) An action required under Section 1551.853 to have a conformity determination for a specific pollutant, will be determined to conform to the applicable SIP if, for each pollutant that exceeds the rates in Section 1551.853, paragraph (b), or otherwise requires a conformity determination due to the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action, the action meets the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, and meets any of the following requirements:

(1) For any criteria pollutant, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action are specifically identified and accounted for in the applicable SIP's attainment or maintenance demonstration;

(2) For ozone or nitrogen dioxide, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action are fully offset within the same nonattainment or maintenance area through a revision to the applicable SIP or a similarly enforceable measure that effects emission reductions so that there is no net increase in emissions of that pollutant;

(3) For any criteria pollutant, except ozone and nitrogen dioxide, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action meet the requirements:

(i) specified in paragraph (b) of this section, based on areawide air quality modeling analysis and local air quality modeling analysis, or

(ii) meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(5) and, for local air quality modeling analysis, the requirement of paragraph (b) of this section;

(4) For CO or PM<sub>10</sub>,

(i) Where the State agency primarily responsible for the applicable SIP determines that an areawide air quality modeling analysis is not needed, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action meet the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section, based on local air quality modeling analysis or

(ii) Where the State agency primarily responsible for the applicable SIP determines that an areawide air quality modeling analysis is appropriate and that a

local air quality modeling analysis is not needed, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action meet the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section, based on areawide modeling, or meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(5) of this section; or

(5) For ozone or nitrogen dioxide, and for purposes of paragraphs (a)(3)(ii) and (a)(4)(ii) of this section, each portion of the action or the action as a whole meets any of the following requirements:

(i) Where EPA has approved a revision to the District's attainment or maintenance demonstration after 1990 and the District makes a determination as provided in paragraph (A) or where the District makes a commitment as provided in paragraph (B):

(A) The total of direct and indirect emissions from the action (or portion thereof) is determined and documented by the District to result in a level of emissions which, together with all other emissions in the nonattainment (or maintenance) area, would not exceed the emissions budgets specified in the applicable SIP.

(B) The total of direct and indirect emissions from the action (or portion thereof) is determined by the District to result in a level of emissions which, together with all other emissions in the nonattainment (or maintenance) area, would exceed an emissions budget specified in the applicable SIP and the State Governor or the California Air Resources Board makes a written commitment to EPA which includes the following:

(1) A specific schedule for adoption and submittal of a revision to the SIP which would achieve the needed emission reductions prior to the time emissions from the Federal action would occur;

(2) Identification of specific measures for incorporation into the SIP which would result in a level of emissions which, together with all other emissions in the nonattainment or maintenance area, would not exceed any emissions budget specified in the applicable SIP;

(3) A demonstration that all existing applicable SIP requirements are being implemented in the area for the pollutants affected by the Federal action, and that local authority to implement additional requirements has been fully pursued;

(4) A determination that the responsible Federal agencies have required all reasonable mitigation measures associated with their action; and

(5) Written documentation including all air quality analyses supporting the conformity determination.

(C) Where a Federal agency made a conformity determination based on a District commitment under subparagraph (a)(5)(i)(B) of this paragraph, such a District commitment is automatically deemed a call for a SIP revision by EPA under Section 110(k)(5) of the Act, effective on the date of the Federal conformity determination and requiring response within 18 months or any shorter time within which the District commits to revise the applicable SIP;

(ii) The action (or portion thereof), as determined by the MPO, is specifically included in a current transportation plan and transportation improvement program which have been found to conform to the applicable SIP under 40 CFR part 51, subpart T, or 40 CFR part 93, subpart A;

(iii) The action (or portion thereof) fully offsets its emissions within the same nonattainment or maintenance area through a revision to the applicable SIP or an equally enforceable measure that effects emission reductions equal to or greater than the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action so that there is no net increase in emissions of that pollutant;

(iv) Where EPA has not approved a revision to the relevant SIP attainment or maintenance demonstration since 1990, the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action for the future years [described in paragraph (d) of Section 1551.859] do not increase emissions with respect to the baseline emissions;

(A) The baseline emissions reflect the historical activity levels that occurred in the geographic area affected by the proposed Federal action during:

(1) Calendar year 1990,

(2) The calendar year that is the basis for the classification (or, where the classification is based on multiple years, the year that is most representative in terms of the level of activity), if a classification is promulgated in 40 CFR part 81, or

(3) The year of the baseline inventory in the PM<sub>10</sub> applicable SIP;

(B) The baseline emissions are the total of direct and indirect emissions calculated for the future years [described in paragraph (d) of Section 1551.859] using the historic activity levels [described in subparagraph (a)(5)(iv)(A) of this paragraph] and appropriate emission factors for the future years; or

(v) Where the action involves regional water and/or wastewater projects, such projects are sized to meet only the needs of population projections that are in the

applicable implementation plan, based on assumptions regarding per capita use that are developed or approved in accordance with Section 1551.859(a).

- (b) The areawide and/or local air quality modeling analyses must:
  - (1) Meet the requirements in Section 1551.859, and
  - (2) Show that the action does not:
    - (i) Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; or
    - (ii) Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area.

(c) Notwithstanding any other requirements of this section, an action subject to Rule 1501 may not be determined to conform to the applicable SIP unless the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action is in compliance or consistent with all relevant requirements and milestones contained in the applicable SIP, such as elements identified as part of the reasonable further progress schedules, assumptions specified in the attainment or maintenance demonstration, prohibitions, numerical emission limits, and work practice requirements.

(d) Any analyses required under this section must be completed, and any mitigation requirements necessary for a finding of conformity must be identified before the determination of conformity is made.

#### **§1551.859 - PROCEDURES FOR CONFORMITY DETERMINATIONS OF GENERAL FEDERAL ACTIONS**

(a) The analyses required under Rule 1501 must be based on the latest planning assumptions.

(1) All current planning assumptions (including, but not limited to, per capita water and sewer use, vehicle miles traveled per capita or per household, trip generation per household, vehicle occupancy, household size, vehicle fleet mix, vehicle ownership, wood stoves per household, and the geographic distribution of population growth) must be derived from the estimates of current and future population, employment, travel, and congestion most recently developed by the MPO, or other agency authorized to make such estimates, where available.

(2) Any revisions to these estimates used as part of the conformity determination, including projected shifts in geographic location or level of population, employment, travel, and congestion, must be approved by the MPO or other agency authorized to make such estimates for the urban area.

(b) The analyses required under Rule 1501 must be based on the latest and most accurate emission estimation techniques available as described below, unless such techniques are inappropriate. If such techniques are inappropriate and written approval of the EPA Regional Administrator is obtained for any modification or substitution, they may be modified or another technique substituted on a case-by-case basis or, where appropriate, on a generic basis for a specific Federal agency program.

(1) For motor vehicle emissions, the most current version of the motor vehicle emissions model specified by EPA, or an alternative model approved by EPA for use in California, and available for use in the preparation or revision of SIPs in California must be used for the conformity analysis as specified below:

(i) The EPA must publish in the Federal Register a notice of availability of any new motor vehicle emissions model; and

(ii) A grace period of three months shall apply during which the motor vehicle emissions model previously specified by EPA as the most current version may be used. Conformity analyses for which the analysis was begun during the grace period or no more than three years before the Federal Register notice of availability of the latest emission model may continue to use the previous version of the model specified by EPA.

(2) For non-motor vehicle sources, including stationary and area source emissions, the latest emission factors specified by EPA in the "Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors (AP-42)" must be used for the conformity analysis unless more accurate emission data are available, such as actual stack test data from stationary sources which are part of the conformity analysis.

(c) The air quality modeling analyses required under Rule 1501 must be based on the applicable air quality models, data bases, and other requirements specified in the most recent version of the "Guideline on Air Quality Models (Revised)" (1986), including supplements (EPA publication no. 450/2-78-027R), unless:

(1) The guideline techniques are inappropriate, in which case the model may be modified or another model substituted on a case-by-case basis or, where appropriate, on a generic basis for a specific Federal agency program; and

(2) Written approval of the EPA Regional Administrator is obtained for any modification or substitution.

(d) The analyses required under Rule 1501, except Section 1551.858, paragraph (a)(1), must be based on the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action and must reflect emission scenarios that are expected to occur under each of the following cases:

- (1) The Act mandated attainment year or, if applicable, the farthest year for which emissions are projected in the maintenance plan;
- (2) The year during which the total of direct and indirect emissions from the action is expected to be the greatest on an annual basis; and
- (3) Any year for which the applicable SIP specifies an emissions budget.

### **§1551.860 - MITIGATION OF AIR QUALITY IMPACTS**

(a) Any measures that are intended to mitigate air quality impacts must be identified (including the identification and quantification of all emission reductions claimed) and the process for implementation (including any necessary funding of such measure and the tracking of such emission reductions) and enforcement of such measures must be described, including an implementation schedule containing explicit timelines for implementation.

(b) Prior to determining that a Federal action is in conformity, the Federal agency making the conformity determination must obtain written commitments from the appropriate persons or agencies to implement any mitigation measures which are identified as conditions for making conformity determinations. Such written commitment shall describe such mitigation measures and the nature of the commitment, in a manner consistent with paragraph (a).

(c) Persons or agencies voluntarily committing to mitigation measures to facilitate positive conformity determinations must comply with the obligations of such commitments.

(d) In instances where the Federal agency is licensing, permitting or otherwise approving the action of another governmental or private entity, approval by the Federal agency must be conditioned on the other entity meeting the mitigation measures set forth in the conformity determination, as provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(e) When necessary because of changed circumstances, mitigation measures may be modified so long as the new mitigation measures continue to support the conformity determination in accordance with Sections 1551.858 and 1551.859, and this section. Any proposed change in the mitigation measures is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 1551.856 and the public participation requirements of Section 1551.857.

(f) Written commitments to mitigation measures must be obtained prior to a positive conformity determination and such commitments must be fulfilled.

(g) After the State SIP is revised to include this rule and EPA approves that SIP revision, any agreements, including mitigation measures, necessary for a conformity determination will be both State and federally enforceable. Enforceability through the applicable SIP will apply to all persons who agree to mitigate direct and indirect emissions associated with a Federal action for a conformity determination.