UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

DEC 08 2014

Mr. Alexander Smith
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project, San Diego, California (CEQ #20140320)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We commend the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for seeking to improve transit service in the Mid-Coast Corridor. We hope that as indicated in this and prior documents, if constructed, these improvements will increase transit ridership, decrease automobile congestion, and lead to air quality improvements.

We reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the previous version of this project and provided comments on May 8, 1995, and reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and provided comments on August 13, 2001. The FEIS resolved the concerns that we had identified following our review of the previous DEIS. We then reviewed the first Supplemental DEIS (SDEIS), which described an updated project, and provided comments on July 17, 2013. We rated that 2013 Supplemental DEIS as LO, *Lack of Objections*, and provided comments on coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding impacts to wetlands and waters, and encouraged continued efforts to minimize impacts to wetlands and waters during future design and construction. We also encouraged consultation with the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District to minimize construction emissions that would exceed significance thresholds, and provided comments on construction noise, and multimodal access and transit-supportive development around stations.

Subsequently, a second Supplemental DEIS was prepared due to the identification of San Diego fairy shrimp, a federally listed endangered species, within the project area subsequent to circulation of the first SDEIS and that the scope of this second document is limited to the evaluation of impacts to that species, discussion of the Section 7 consultation process, and

identification of mitigation measures. We deferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on review of potential impacts and proposed mitigation for impacts to listed species. We therefore had no comments on the second SDEIS and rated it as LO, *Lack of Objections*. We still have no comments on the Supplemental FEIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the SFEIS and look forward to your Record of Decision. When that document is released for public review, please send one CD copy to the address above (mail code: ENF-4-2). If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Mulvihill, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Connell Dunning

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Office

cc: Leslie Blanda, SANDAG