January 3, 2012

SENT VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Ms. Dolores Martinez  
City of Galt Public Works Department  
495 Industrial Drive  
Galt, CA 95632

Mr. Dan Klinker  
County of Sacramento Transportation Department  
906 G Street, Suite 510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

South County Transit Link Short Range Transit Plan Amendment (SAC201101412)

Dear Ms. Martinez and Mr. Klinker:

Because the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is charged with representing the citizens of Sacramento in regards to influencing public and private agency decisions that may have an adverse impact on air quality,¹ SMAQMD staff reviews planning and environmental documents related to land development and transportation projects and makes recommendations to avoid and/or mitigate air emissions.

SMAQMD staff reviewed the South County Transit Link Short Range Transit Plan Amendment (Plan Amendment) released by the City of Galt and the County of Sacramento (Implementing Agencies) on December 13, 2012. Effective transit service reduces single occupant vehicle trips in the Sacramento region thereby reducing vehicular emissions and assisting the SMAQMD in its mission to provide healthful air for its citizens to breathe. Staff comments on the Plan Amendment follow.

In order to minimize or eliminate vehicle trips to bus stops, SMAQMD encourages the Implementing Agencies to select bus stops that are in close proximity to potential riders and provide safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to encourage walking and biking to the bus stops.

It is important that potential riders are able to make smooth and inexpensive connections with other transit providers in the region (e-Tran, Regional Transit and shuttle services). SMAQMD encourages the Implementing Agencies to participate in the Connect Card project through SACOG or otherwise work with other transit providers in the region to ensure South County Transit Link riders can conveniently get to their final destinations if more than one transit service is needed.

The Plan Amendment recognizes the importance of and need for public outreach to ensure transit services are being utilized effectively. The Implementing Agencies should strive for a signature transit service which provides high frequency, high visibility, high ridership and unique branding.

¹ California Health and Safety Code Section 40961

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The Plan Amendment appears consistent with many of the policies supporting Goal C-5 of the City of Galt General Plan, to promote a safe and efficient transit system. The SMAQMD would like to highlight policy COS-6.5, Public Transit Bus Fleet, and encourage the Implementing Agencies to encourage the use of the lowest emission technology buses for transit services.

A date should be added to the Plan Amendment for clear reference.

SMAQMD would like to commend the Implementing Agencies for recommending a pilot downtown Sacramento commuter route and updating the Highway 99 route to provide access to more destinations (education, medical, employment and other transit links). Also, with the proposed elimination of the Lodi route for the Delta service, offering the additional bus stop along the Twin Cities Road Corridor provides a good shopping destination alternative.

Thank you for providing the SMAQMD the opportunity to review the Plan Amendment and for your consideration of the comments provided. Please keep the SMAQMD informed of Plan Amendment updates and progress on its implementation. The SMAQMD staff contact for projects related to land use and transportation in the City of Galt is Ms. Karen Huss. She can be reached at 916-874-4881 or khuss@airquality.org.

Sincerely,

Larry Robinson
Land Use and Transportation Section Program Coordinator

Cc: Karen Huss, SMAQMD
    Sandy Kiriou, City of Galt Planning Department