

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues October 12, 2010 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the October 12 meeting are summarized below.

1. Transportation Conformity

COG DTP staff presented information on the draft conformity determination for the 2010 CLRP and the 2011-2016 TIP. The analysis shows that emissions are lower than the required or proposed motor vehicle emission budgets for all analysis years. This year's analysis uses several new inputs and approaches. Round 8 Cooperative Forecasts were used which indicate lower levels of growth compared to the predictions from 2009. The analysis also includes a new outyear - 2040 - that will be analyzed moving forward. The analysis does not yet include the most recent Household Travel Survey and does not use the new EPA MOVES model. As in past analyses, emissions decline significantly over time however, between 2030 and 2040 as emission control requirements begin to be fully phased in but the fleet continues to grow, emissions actually begin to increase slightly, suggesting the need for new control programs to give us benefits into the future. Staff will draft a comment letter for potential action by the MWAQC Executive Committee in November.

2. Air Quality Trends Report

COG DEP staff are preparing the annual air quality trends report. The report covers trends in air quality from 1993-2009. Information is available for ozone, fine particles, carbon monoxide, lead, NO₂, and SO₂. The air quality monitoring network is also described, with a map with monitor location and a table showing which pollutants are measured. Information on the basic timeline for NAAQS implementation is provided. Overall, the reports clearly depicts substantial progress in improving air quality in the region.

3. EPA Proposed Fuel Efficiency Labels

COG staff prepared a draft comment letter on EPA's proposed new vehicle fuel efficiency labeling system. The letter states MWAQC support for the proposed updates to fuel economy labels. Revised label designs would provide a strong educational value for consumers considering an automobile purchase. The labels represent the fuel performance of a vehicle clearly and the grading system allows consumers to easily compare vehicles across different categories. Additionally, reporting the greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions will help consumers to consider how their selection of an automobile impacts the environment.

Upcoming Events

ACPAC, October 18

MOVES Task Force, October 19

Transportation Priorities Task Force, October 20

TPB, October 20

Energy Advisory Committee, October 21

CEEPC, November 17

MWAQC, December 8