

San Joaquin Valley Project-Level Conformity Working Group

Project-Level Conformity Determination for

Naranjo Boulevard and Mulberry Street Roundabout Project, City of Woodlake, Tulare County

Meeting Minutes

March 05, 2025, 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

The meeting was held via Teams teleconference.

Attendees

- SJV AQ Coordinator (Trinity Consultants): Suriya Vallamsundar, Alex Marcucci
- TCAG: Gabriel Gutierrez
- City of Woodlake and Project Team: Emmanuel Llamas, Monique Mello, Matthew Daniel
- StanCOG: Blake Dunford
- FCOG: Blake Rincon
- KernCOG: Vincent Liu
- Caltrans HQ: Rodney Tavitas, Karishma Becha, Nicole Lewis, Peter Kang
- Caltrans District 6: Maya Hildebrand
- EPA: Lindsay Wickersham
- FHWA: Gilberto Contreras, Kemi Ademuyewo, Chris Dresser

Meeting Summary

- Introductions

Commencing the meeting, AQ Coordinator provided opening remarks and conducted a call to establish the attendance of all participants.

- Review of Non-Exempt Projects for the Project-level Particulate Matter (PM) Conformity

- Introductions and Project Overview: AQ Coordinator introduced the Naranjo Boulevard and Mulberry St roundabout project in the City of Woodlake, Tulare County.
- Project Presentation: City of Woodlake project team presented the project details and the reasoning behind the proposed project-level conformity determination.
- Public Comment Period: TCAG informed the group that all project-level materials were available for public review on the COG website from February 24 – March 3, 2025. No comments were received during this public comment period. Comments were received from the EPA and were addressed at the meeting.

- Discussion

EPA had the following comments related to the project and were addressed by the City of Woodlake's project team

Comment: Why was 2022 chosen as the base year instead of a more recent year?

Response: 2022 was chosen because it was the most recent complete data year available when the traffic study was finalized in 2023.

Comment: In the Hotspot checklist, the document states that the open to traffic year is 2025. Is this correct?

Response: The original 2025 date was the anticipated opening at the time of the traffic analysis. This has been revised to a construction start in 2026, and the relevant documents (checklist and slides) will be updated to reflect this change.

Comment: Currently, Mulberry Road does not connect to the proposed interchange. Are there plans to extend Mulberry Road to this roundabout and if so, is this included in the TIP and RTP? Did the modeling consider the extension of Mulberry Road to this roundabout?

Response: The Mulberry extension to the south of Naranjo has already been constructed. This project will connect the southern extension of Mulberry Street to Naranjo Boulevard. The Mulberry extension to the north will be built when the subdivision goes in at the northwest corner. That subdivision is only in site plan review currently and therefore not in the FTIP. The traffic analysis considered the Mulberry Street extensions to the North and the South in its analysis. Therefore, traffic counts from the proposed Mulberry extension were analyzed. Figures illustrating the project's plans for Mulberry Road will be added to the checklist and slides.

- Determination

EPA and Caltrans concurred that the project is not a project of air quality concern (POAQC).

- Closing Remarks and Adjournment

AQ Coordinator informed the group that the final hot spot materials and meeting minutes will be posted to the TCAG website. TCAG will then send a final email to IAC, documenting the concurrences received.