



February 3, 2014

Kimberly A. Kerr
Acting Community Development Agency Director
Community Development Agency
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Kerr:

This is in response to your letter of November 7, 2013 regarding the El Dorado County Travel Demand Model. We appreciated the collegial spirit in which your agency engaged with SACOG over the course of the EDCTDM development. SACOG's involvement over the course of the development has been: providing parcel-level base year and future year land use data; providing documentation, data files, and programs from SACOG's pre-2007 travel demand model, SACMET07; and periodic staff check-ins opportunities to review and comment on the project.

We understand that all of the base year data and other files provided by SACOG have been thoroughly reviewed and revised by your agency staff and your consultant for the project. The land use data was for all intents and purposes rebuilt entirely over the course of the project, and the future year land use data will be based on "achievable development" at "reasonably expected intensity" based on the County General Plan land use categories. Significant detail was added to the base year highway network and zone system, to allow for trip generation, distribution and assignment to be assessed for very small land areas. Also, the SACMET07 programs were revised to include a "5D's" post-processing adjustment, among other things.

We understand that the EDCTDM is intended primarily for County staff to analyze and forecast traffic for the County long-range transportation plan, the transportation improvement program, and other local studies. We appreciate that your agency understands that other travel demand models, such as SACOG's SACSIM regional travel demand model, are needed for planning studies and analyses which cover a larger area than the EDCTDM does, and that those models will be used for those studies and analyses instead of the EDCTDM. Good examples of such plans and studies are the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy, and the emissions and air quality analysis which goes along with that. For all base year land use and network data for El Dorado County in SACOG models, we will continue to share and coordinate with your staff to ensure that the representation of the county in both models is consistent.

Auburn
Citrus Heights
Colfax
Davis
El Dorado County
Elk Grove
Folsom
Galt
Isleton
Lincoln
Live Oak
Loomis
Marysville
Placer County
Placerville
Rancho Cordova
Rocklin
Roseville
Sacramento
Sacramento County
Sutter County
West Sacramento
Wheatland
Winters
Woodland
Yolo County
Yuba City
Yuba County

With all this in mind, we concur that:

- The EDCTDM conforms to state-of-practice in subarea travel demand modeling
- The EDCTDM model meets traffic assignment validation standards suggested by FHWA and Caltrans
- The EDCTDM is an appropriate tool for the County's intended purposes

This concurrence is based on the ongoing dialog we have had with County staff, and review of the published documentation.

We also firmly believe that all TDM's, including the EDCTDM, are not static, unchanging, fixed tools—they are not “set-it-and-forget-it” in any way. TDM's must be maintained, updated, and improved over time to remain useful and relevant planning tools. In that regard: One of the significant improvements of the current EDCTDM over the prior version was the inclusion of a “buffer area” to the west of El Dorado County, including Folsom and parts of Orangevale and Rancho Cordova. This buffer area allows for better modeling of the dynamic relationship between El Dorado County and areas outside the County. SACOG periodically updates both its base year and future year land use data, and hopes that those updates are incorporated into the buffer area over time. Additionally, because so much of the region is external to the EDCTDM, travel demands at the gateways (i.e. the edges of the model area) should be periodically updated, and we would like to be consulted when updates occur.

Sincerely



Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:BG:pm

S:/Projects 13-14/Long-RangeTranspoPlan/Ltr to Kimberly Kerr 2-3-14