

**DIRECT LETTER OF CONSENT CORRESPONDENCE AUTHORITY
- FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER**

**US Department
of Transportation**
Federal Highway
Administration

Federal Highway Administration
California Division

June 28, 2017

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001
(916) 498-5008 (fax)

Jennifer S. Lowden
Division Chief
Right of Way and Land Surveys
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street, MS-37
Sacramento, CA 95814

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

SUBJECT: Caltrans' Direct Letter of Consent Correspondence Authority

Dear Ms. Lowden:

Under the two statutory NEPA assignment programs (23 U.S.C. sections 326 and 327), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the lead agency for the environmental process, engineering studies and agency coordination on the vast majority of Federal-aid highway projects within the State of California. Federal Land Transfers (FLT) (23 U.S.C. sections 107[d] and 317) are an integral part of the Federal-aid project development and NEPA processes. Caltrans' overall agency coordination role overlaps with the FLT process on many levels and culminates with the contacting of a potential Granting Federal Agency (GFA) in a Letter of Consent (LOC) request to proceed with a FLT.

In keeping with this agency coordination role, process updates and agency streamlining efforts, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), California Division Office (CA Division), is eliminating a step in the current FLT process. As of this date, the CA Division will no longer forward the completed LOC request package to the GFA. Instead, in efforts to streamline the FLT process, Caltrans will submit the required correspondence directly to the GFA on behalf of the FHWA. Moving forward, FHWA will be copied on these requests. Upon approval of the LOC by the GFA, Caltrans will provide the application to the FHWA for review and approval as required by 23 USC 317 and Section 107(d).

FHWA believes this streamlining effort provides the opportunity for significant time savings, roles and responsibilities clarification, and, quicker project delivery times. These proposed changes are effective per the date of this signed letter.

If you have any questions pertaining to these changes, please contact Joseph Vaughn at (916) 498-5346 or by email at Joseph.Vaughn@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator

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EXHIBIT
8-EX-56 (NEW 8/2018)
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cc: (email)
Jennifer Lowden, Caltrans
Shawn Oliver, FHWA
Tashia Clemons, FHWA
Joseph Vaughn, FHWA