

Caltrans Meeting With Landscape and Erosion Control Contractors 2014 Action Items

We gathered a great deal of feedback from both Landscape and Erosion Control Contractors at this year's meeting, and after analyzing the comments, have identified the potential action items below.

Specification Revisions

Rock Blanket Specification and Standard Plan

Consider specifying the total excavation depth.

Consider adding hydro-straw as an option to blown straw to reduce problems with air quality compliance.

Permanent Erosion Control/Source Control

We are still searching for methods (specifications) to get permanent planting and erosion control in place as soon as possible.

E-Bidding Information

Caltrans to provide links to pertinent e-bidding information to Contractors

Electronic Bidding Contact:

Chris Rice (916)227-6235 or Chris.Rice@dot.ca.gov

Electronic Bidding Webpage:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/electronic_bidding/electronic_bidding.html

Electronic Bidding FAQ:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/electronic_bidding/oe_elec_bidding_faq.php

Electronic Bidding Guide:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/docs/ebid_guide.pdf

Minimize Contractor Liability for Damage by Traffic

Caltrans to check if there are methods to minimize Contractor liability from (repeat) traffic hits to equipment such as irrigation controllers or backflow preventers. Is there a way for the State to reimburse the Contractor from the State's insurance? Is there a way for Caltrans to get the CHP to provide traffic accident report information to our Contractors?

Liquidated Damages for Highway Planting Work

Check if there is a way to get liquidated damage penalties reduced.

Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP) Availability

Check to ensure the availability of RECPs, particularly coir netting from overseas.

Bonding Requirements

Check if there is a way to reduce bonding requirements for landscape contractors. Is there a way to reduce the bonding requirements for a contractor after a portion of the work is completed (for example roadway work, or paved gore areas, etc)?

Payment for Rock Removal During Trenching

March 12, 2014

Page 2

Contractors have asked Caltrans to reinstitute extra work payment for the disposal of rock removed from irrigation trenches. The 2014 Revised Standard Specifications (RSS) made this change.

Equipment Rental Rate Book

Is there a way to get standard equipment like hydroseeding and straw blowing equipment placed permanently in the Equipment Rental Rate Book?

District Landscape Architect Communication

Move-In/Move-Out Specifications

Develop and distribute guidance to District designers on how to best estimate the move-in/move-out work for both temporary and permanent erosion control work. Make sure the scope of this work is clearly identified (hydroseed, BFM, and/or fiber rolls?)

Scope of Work for Roadside Clearing, Maintain Existing Planting and Maintain Existing Irrigation

Develop and distribute guidance to District designers on how to clearly identify the scope of work (extents) for Roadside Clearing and Maintain Existing Planting/Irrigation. Either clearly identify the limits on the plans, or clearly identify the limits and/or scope of work in the specifications. What is the work? Where is the work located (new planting, existing planting, erosion control areas)? When or how often is the work to be performed?

Also – consider adding “Remove dead plants” to the list of requirements for roadside clearing.

Guidance for Blown Straw

Develop and distribute guidance to District designers on where or where not to specify the application blown straw. Contractors are still being fined for blowing straw in Placer County. Blowing straw at night creates other problems such as blinding drivers. Provide designers with alternate soil stabilization solutions such as blowing compost, hydrostraw, applying tackifier, or applying bonded fiber matrix.

Compost on Steep or Windy Slopes

Develop and distribute guidance to District designers on standard methods to keep compost in place on steep slopes, or those exposed to windy conditions. Options include incorporation, covering with coir netting, hydrostraw, covering with BFM at 2,000-4,000 lbs/acre, or a top application of fiber and tackifier..

Short Shelf Life Seed Species

Avoid over-specifying the germination rate for seed species – particularly “short shelf-life” plant species.

March 12, 2014

Page 3

Seed Application Rates

Avoid over-specifying the application rate for seed species – particularly rare, high cost seed species.