TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY DIRECTIVE

ROBERT COPP, DIVISION CHIEF (Signature)

SUBJECT:

Inclusion of the following new guide signs in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD)

- Watershed Boundary (S36(CA)) Sign
- ENTERING (S36A(CA)) Plaque
- LEAVING (S36B(CA)) Plaque

NUMBER: 09-02

DATE ISSUED: March 5, 2009

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2009

DISTRIBUTION

☒ All District Directors
☒ All Deputy District Directors - Traffic Operations
☒ All Deputy District Directors - Maintenance
☒ All Deputy District Directors - Construction
☒ All Deputy District Directors - Design
☐ All Deputy District Directors - Transportation Planning
☐ Chief, Division of Engineering Services
☒ Chief Counsel, Legal Division
☒ Publications (California MUTCD Website)
  www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signets/mutcdsupp/ca_mutcd.htm
☐ Headquarters Division Chiefs for:

DOES THIS DIRECTIVE AFFECT OR SUPERSEDE ANOTHER DOCUMENT? ☒YES ☐NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE

Amends Chapter 2D of the California MUTCD

WILL THIS DIRECTIVE BE INCORPORATED IN THE CALIFORNIA MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ☒YES ☐NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE

Chapter 2D - Section 2D.48 & Figure 2D-12 (CA)

DIRECTIVE

Pursuant to the authority granted to the California Department of Transportation (Department) in Section 21400 and 21401 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), the following new signs shall be included in Part 2 of the California MUTCD, dated September 26, 2006;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California Code</th>
<th>MUTCD Code</th>
<th>Title of Sign</th>
<th>California MUTCD Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S36(CA)</td>
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<td>Watershed Boundary</td>
<td>2D.48</td>
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<td>S36A(CA)</td>
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<td>2D.48</td>
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IMPLEMENTATION

In this section, for purposes of clarity, strikethrough text is used to denote text in the California MUTCD that is being deleted and italic text is used to denote text that is being added to the California MUTCD. All other formatting as defined under the Definitions section of this Policy Directive is still applicable.

The following policies shall be included in the California MUTCD:

Section 2D.48 General Information Signs (I Series)

River Name (I-3) Sign
Option:
   The River Name (I-3) sign may be used to identify bridges or structures across rivers and creeks and provide motorist orientation that is not otherwise included in the primary signing.
Guidance:
   The I-3 sign should be used on freeways to identify major river crossings.
Option:
   The Watershed Boundary (S36(CA)) sign may be installed to identify the boundary of recognized watershed areas, by its appropriate name (before "WATERSHED"). The sign assembly may provide road user orientation with the directional information plaque, ENTERING (S36A(CA)), or LEAVING (S36B(CA)), as appropriate, included above the S36(CA) sign.
Support:
   The Watershed Boundary (S36(CA)) sign provides information for road users to be aware of the geographic boundary of the geographically-named watershed, as recognized by the United States Geological Survey, and promotes environmental stewardship of watersheds by the community. The purpose of the sign is to serve as a reminder to road users that they are traveling through a watershed, and to promote awareness that the responsibility of preserving the cleanliness of our watersheds is shared by all in the community.
Standard:
   The agency installing the Watershed Boundary (S36(CA)) sign, with or without the ENTERING (S36A(CA)) or LEAVING (S36B(CA)) supplemental plaque, shall be responsible for furnishing, installing, maintaining and replacing the signs, as needed. The agency installing the signs shall receive approval from the agency having jurisdiction of the roadway prior to installation of these signs.

In all applications of this policy, engineering judgment must be exercised. The objective is to provide uniform applications of signs statewide. If there are any questions regarding implementation, districts should consult with the Headquarters Traffic Operations Liaison.

DELEGATION

No new delegations of authority are created under this policy.

ADA Notice
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BACKGROUND

The inclusion of new signs in the California MUTCD is a common practice based upon need. The Department, pursuant to CVC Section 21400; must conduct public hearings before it can revise existing traffic control device policies and approve new signs for use on public roadways. The California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) is the forum used to satisfy this requirement.

The purpose of this directive is to implement a uniform sign policy for Watershed Boundary signs. This sign was requested by the City of San Diego Water District after completing an experimental deployment of watershed boundary signs between work beginning in July 2005 through September 2008.

In the California MUTCD, there is no design or specification for a watershed sign. The City of San Diego Water District, in July 2005, requested approval from the CTCDC to conduct an experimental pilot study with a watershed sign. The sign’s purpose was two-fold. First, to serve as a reminder to motorists that they are traveling through a watershed, and secondly, to serve as a tool to increase overall awareness, that the responsibility of preserving the cleanliness of our watersheds rests on the entire community. The CTCDC, over the course of several meetings, requested additional information and justification on these signs. In their meeting of February 23, 2006, the CTCDC granted an experimental pilot study for the watershed sign to the City of San Diego Water District.

The City of San Diego Water District, prior to establishing the pilot study, conducted extensive research on existing signs and efforts. The research compiled information from Texas, Oregon, Washington, Georgia, and California as well as from the east coast including Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The pilot study also identified several possibilities for increasing education on watersheds by agencies and organizations through the installation of these signs. It recommended the establishment of a unifying design that will maximize the exposure and education of the “keep it clean” message in areas that are near drinking water resources. In addition, during this process several agencies throughout California expressed interest in the use of this sign and have already established educational campaigns to supplement their implementation. The pilot study concluded that the watershed sign will help to create opportunities for the public to learn about the importance of watersheds and encourage environmental stewardship of the watersheds by members of the community. The CTCDC, based on the results of the pilot, recommended to the Department at their September 17-18, 2008 meeting to include this sign in the California MUTCD.

The Federal Highway Administration has reviewed the proposed modifications to the California MUTCD and has determined that they are in substantial compliance with the MUTCD.

This policy will be retired when it is incorporated in the next revision of the California MUTCD.
DEFINITIONS

When used in this Traffic Operations Policy Directive, the text shall be defined as follows:

1) **Standard** – a statement of required, mandatory or specifically prohibited practice. All standards text appears in **bold** type. The verb **shall** is typically used. Standards are sometimes modified by Options.

2) **Guidance** – a statement of recommended, but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgment or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements text appears in **underline** type. The verb **should** is typically used. Guidance statements are sometime modified by Options.

3) **Option** – a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation. Options may contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance. All Option statements text appears in normal type. The verb **may** is typically used.

4) **Support** – an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition. Support statements text appears in normal type. The verbs shall, should and may are not used in Support statements.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Page 5  Detail of Watershed Boundary (S36(CA)) Sign
2. Page 6  Detail of Watershed Boundary Symbol Grid
3. Page 7  Detail of ENTERING (S36A(CA) Plaque and LEAVING (S36B(CA)) Plaque
4. Pages 8-9  Revision to Figure 2D-12 (CA) (Sheet 2 of 2)
SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED
KEEP IT CLEAN

S36 (CA)

ENGLISH UNITS

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<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
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COLORS: BORDER & LEGEND - WHITE
BACKGROUND - BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)
SYMBOL - BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)
60% BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)
30% BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)

3/5/09
S36A (CA)

S36B (CA)

ENGLISH UNITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
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COLORS: BORDER & LEGEND - WHITE
BACKGROUND - BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)

3/5/09
Figure 2D-12 (CA). California General Information Signs (Sheet 2 of 2)

S32-1 (CA)  S32-2 (CA)  S32-3 (CA)  S32-4 (CA)  S32-5 (CA)

S34 (CA)  S35 (CA)  S35-1 (CA)  S35-2 (CA)  S35-3 (CA)

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Figure 2D-12 (CA). California General Information Signs (Sheet 2 of 2)