Memorandum

To: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Traffic Operations
Mail Station 36

Subject: Work Zone Speed Limits

It has been noted that some districts continue to post regulatory speed limits within freeway work zones without performing the required Traffic and Engineering (T&E) survey and proper documentation entered into the project files. This practice is unacceptable, and results only in motorists contemp, and a majority violation of the speed limit due to lack of perception that there is a real need to reduce their speed.

The only other method of documentation which is allowed to reduce regulatory speed limits is when a project has been evaluated and selected for the Construction/Maintenance Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program (COZEEN/MAZEEN), see attached memorandum "Construction Speed Zones" dated December 22, 1992 and the "Typical Signing for COZEEN/MAZEEN Reduced Speed Zone" plan.

In either case, the speed limit should not be lowered more than 10 mph below the posted or maximum speed limit. If the project falls within an established 65 mph zone, and a 45 mph speed limit is considered necessary, it may be posted only if the approaching speed limits are lowered in two stages i.e., first to a 55 mph speed limit followed by a reduction to the desired 45 mph; however, it should be noted that a 20 mph speed reduction is usually not complied with by most motorists, even when the California Highway Patrol is present and visible.

Any restrictive geometrics or conditions such as horizontal alignment, narrowed lanes, structural section cut-out next to traffic, etc., may be posted with a standard W6 (black on orange) suggested speed supplemental plate mounted below a construction warning sign advising of the roadway condition.

Please make a wide distribution of this memorandum to all employees who may be involved with traffic control plans and/or work zone planned traffic management. If there are questions, please direct them to either Mr. Bill Hoversten at Calnet 464-4555, (916) 654-4555 or Mr. Fred Jager at Calnet 464-5528 or (916) 654-5528.

FJJBB:cad
bc: J Bordner
WH Hoversten
JKLitzman

Attachment FJJager
JAAleman
GKundert
Reviewers

JAMES B. BORDEN
Program Manager
Traffic Operations

DTenBroeck - Maintenance
JEdson - Maintenance
JDBrowoski - Construction
ICar - Construction
TYPICAL SIGNING FOR COZEEP/MAZEEP REDUCED SPEED ZONE

1/2 mile +

BEGIN LANE
Closure Signing

Median Shoulder

Shoulder

ROAD WORK AHEAD
C23
(R or C14)

40"x 48"

ZONE AHEAD
R2-4
36"x 45"

ROAD WORK AHEAD
C23
(R or C14)

40"x 48"

ZONE AHEAD
R2-4
36"x 45"

WILL BE ENFORCED

STRict ENFORCEMENT

45 ZONE AHEAD

CMS

LANE CLOSED
C30
48"x 48"

See Standard Plan T10 for lane closure details and requirements

END
45 SPEED LIMIT
R3 (Place at end of work zone)

No Scale