

Memorandum

To: ALL DISTRICT DIVISION CHIEFS
Traffic Operations

Date: September 30, 1998

File No.:

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
MAIL STATION 36

Subject: Historic District Signs

Due to several requests by local agencies, a policy has been developed for the placing of Historic District signs on State highways.

Signs may be placed directing traffic to a commercial or residential area that is of historic significance to a community and is recognized as such in the National Register of Historic Places.

For a Historic District to be signed from a State highway, its boundaries must be within 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) of the highway. Only one sign, for each direction will be allowed and it will be from the nearest State highway. The type of sign, whether it is a supplemental plate under an existing G86 (Next Exit/Right) sign or a stand alone sign will be determined by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The signs shall have white legend and border on a brown background. Any follow-up signs, if needed, shall be in place before the highway signs are installed.

It will be the requesting local agency's responsibility to consult with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation to verify placement on the National Register of Historic Places, to verify the historic district's official name and to insure there are no conflicts with existing historic landmarks or points of historical interest signs which may already be in place.

When the above requirements are met, the requesting agency shall adopt a resolution, requesting Caltrans to place the signs. The cost of these signs and their installation will be the responsibility of the requesting agency.

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This policy will be included in the next update to Chapter 4, Section 4-04.17 (Copy Attached), Recreational and Historic Signs, of the Traffic Manual. If you have any comments on this policy, call either Mr. Greg Edwards at Calnet 464-3507 or Mr. Gerry Kundert at Calnet 464-5251.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Hamed Benouar
Program Manager
Traffic Ops
HAMED BENOUAR
Program Manager
Traffic Operations.

Attachment

c: Department of Parks & Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

bc: HBenouar
GMeis
GKundert
Traffic Ops File/Read

2. LOCAL STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

- A sign shall be placed by the local agency at every decision point on the route to the terminal.
- Roads should have adequate turning radii and lane width to accommodate these vehicles.
- General traffic conditions such as sight distance, speed and traffic volumes will not preclude operation.
- If the route passes through more than one local jurisdiction, the city or county where the terminal is located shall acquire concurrence from all affected jurisdictions before requesting access from the National Network or the state terminal access route.

Maps identifying the National Network and the State terminal access routes are available at Caltrans district offices.

4-04.16 Specific Service Signing (Logo)

Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code provides for specific service signing (Logo) on all rural freeways in California. The term "rural" means any area outside of an "urban" area. An urban area is an area encompassing a population of 5,000 or more.

The specific service signing (Logo) program is intended to provide a service to the motorist, not an alternative advertising method for highway oriented businesses.

A business logo may consist of the business identification symbol, name, brand, trademark, or combination, and shall be shown on a separate panel which is attached to the specific service sign. Logos, other than a business identification symbol or trademark, shall have a blue background with a white legend and border.

Messages, symbols, and trademarks which resemble any official traffic control device shall not be used.

All policies and warrants are set and administered by the Caltrans Traffic Operations Program, Encroachment Permits Branch. All requests should be directed to the District Encroachment Permits Engineer.

4-04.17 Recreational and Historic Signs

Recreational Area signs (G71, G72, G91 series and G200 series) and Historic District signs (G86) shall have a white reflectorized legend and border on a brown background. Historic Landmark signs (G13 and G14) shall have a brown legend and border on a cream-colored background. Point of Historical Interest signs (G15) shall have a cream legend on a brown background. Recreational Area and Historic District signs are supplemental signs and are subject to the same spacing (and number of messages) limitations set forth in Section 4-04.12. Under these limitations, eligible Supplemental Destinations, Recreational Areas and Historic Districts must compete for signing on the basis of traffic service.

1. Historical Landmark signs may be in addition to the normal compliment of signs, but minimum spacing will be maintained.

Signs may be placed directing to Historical Landmarks that are registered with the Department of Parks and Recreation . On freeways, such signs will be limited to those more important and better known landmarks where some physical evidence remains, such as missions, forts, state monuments, etc., rather than mere sites of former buildings or happenings.

The Office of Historic Preservation within the Department of Parks and Recreation (or

the Resource Protection Division in the case of State Historic Park sites) shall be notified prior to the removal of an existing Historical Landmark sign.

The G15 sign may be used to direct to Points of Historical Interest that are registered with the Department of Parks and Recreation. They are ordinarily placed when requested by local authorities, after markers or other identification have been placed at the location and follow-up signs, if necessary, have been installed. Such signs shall not be placed on freeways.

Historic District signs may be placed directing traffic to a commercial or residential area that is of historic significance to a community and is recognized as such in the National Register of Historic Places.

For a Historic District to be signed from a State highway, its boundaries must be within 4.8 km of the highway. Only one sign, for each direction will be allowed and it will be from the nearest State highway. The type of sign, whether it is a supplemental plate under an existing G86 (Next Exit/Right) sign or a stand alone sign will be determined by Caltrans. Any follow-up signs, if needed, shall be in place before the highway signs are installed.

It will be the requesting local agency's responsibility to consult with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation to verify the Historic District's official name and to insure there are no conflicts with existing historic landmarks or points of historical interest signs which may already be in place.

When the above requirements are met, the requesting agency shall adopt a resolution,

requesting Caltrans to place the signs. The cost of these signs, and their installation will be the responsibility of the requesting agency.

2. Recreational area signs to National Parks and State Parks should normally include the name of the area. County and City Park signs should not normally include the name.

Recreational area signs may be placed for the following facilities:

- NATIONAL PARKS or Monuments.
- STATE PARKS when located within 8 km of the highway.
- COUNTY PARKS when located within 4.8 km of the highway.
- In urban areas, CITY PARKS within 1.6 km may be signed from conventional highways. Normally, City Parks shall not be signed to from metropolitan freeways.
- CAMPGROUNDS in National Forests or State Parks may be signed from conventional highways when the entrances are located on the highway. An advance sign reading "Campground 1/4 mile" may be placed. Signs at the immediate entrance shall be placed by the agency having jurisdiction over the campground.
- Major rural recreational areas may be signed by name. When a recreational area is served by more than a single exit, the appropriate colored NEXT ____ EXITS sign (G87) may be used. Normally, the sign shall include the name of the area and "RECREATIONAL AREA".

Typical G86
Stand Alone Installation



COLORS
BORDER & LEGEND - WHITE (REFLECTIVE)
BACKGROUND - BROWN (REFLECTIVE)

Typical G86 Installation
With Supplemental Plate



COLORS
BORDER & LEGEND - WHITE (REFLECTIVE)
BACKGROUND - BROWN (REFLECTIVE)