

Memorandum

*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Maintenance and Operations

Date: August 07, 2017

File: 305



From: AMARJEET S. BENIPAL
Acting Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: **EXEMPTION FOR ENCROACHMENT FILMING PERMITS FROM THE
“IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC BREAKS” MEMORANDUM**

Effectively immediately, encroachment filming permits that require rolling traffic breaks or Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) activities not exceeding five minutes in duration are exempted from the portable changeable message sign (PCMS) requirements established in the “Implementation of Traffic Breaks” memorandum dated July 16, 2017 (attached) and lane closure system (LCS) requirements.

ITC activity is defined as intermittent traffic control intended to impede or stop the flow of public traffic, normally not exceeding five minutes at any one time.

Background

Governor’s Executive Order S-15-04 directs State agencies to process applications for commercial filming in the most efficient and expeditious manner possible in order to retain and support the production of films in California, and to ensure that the motion picture industry remains a vital provider of jobs and revenue.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California Film Commission (CFC) was executed to establish reasonable criteria for the approval of permits to allow filming within Caltrans rights-of-way. The MOA also established timeline constraints in order to meet the expectations set by this executive order. This exemption would allow the districts to meet the timelines outlined in the MOA.

Requirements

The following requirements are applicable to filming permits with rolling traffic breaks conducted by the CHP or ITC activities:

- PCMS may be required by the District Encroachment Permit Engineer if deemed necessary due to traffic conditions or geometry of the highway on a case-by-case basis.
- Filming permits with ITC exceeding five minutes must comply with the PCMS requirements established in the “Implementation of Traffic Breaks” memorandum dated July 16, 2017, and LCS requirements.
- Rolling traffic breaks must create only a moving buffer for filming production vehicles to enter and exit the State Highway System. Traffic should only be slowed to facilitate filming activity but never be brought to a complete stop.

Implementation

Each District Permit office must e-mail copies of all approved filming permits involving rolling traffic breaks or ITC activities to their respective District Traffic Manager office and District Transportation Management Center at least one business day prior to permitted filming activity. This will enable those offices to respond to any questions related to rolling traffic breaks or ITC activities.

For questions regarding this memo, you may contact:

- Yin-Ping Li, Chief, Office of Encroachment Permits and Engineering Support at (916) 654-5548, or by e-mail at Yin-Ping.Li@dot.ca.gov
- James R. Anderson, Chief, Office of Traffic Management, at (916) 654-5869, or by email at James.R.Anderson@dot.ca.gov

Attachment:

“Implementation of Traffic Breaks” memorandum dated July 16, 2017

- c: Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations
Eve Honthamer, Deputy Director, California Film Commission
Kristi Cardoza, CHP Statewide Film Coordinator
Yin-Ping Li, Chief, Office of Encroachment Permits and Engineering Support, Division of Traffic Operations
James Anderson, Chief, Office of Traffic Management, Division of Traffic Operations
District Encroachment Permit Engineers
District Traffic Managers
Transportation Management Center Managers
Arshad Iqbal, Coordinator, Lane Closure Management program, Office of Traffic Management
Dwarakeswar Penubolu, Branch Chief, Encroachment Permits, Office of Encroachment Permits and Engineering Support

Memorandum

*Making Conservation
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To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Project Management

Date: July 16, 2017

File: Division of Traffic
Operations

From: 
AMARJEET S. BENIPAL
Acting Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: **IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC BREAKS**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has developed the following Revised Standard Specifications for work zone activities on the State Highway System (SHS):

1. Revised Standard Specification (RSS), 1-1.07B to include definition of "Traffic Break"
2. Revised Standard Specification (RSS), 12-4.02 to include requirement for "Traffic Breaks"

These revisions to the 2015 Standard Specifications will be posted on July 21, 2017.

A portable changeable message sign (PCMS) shall be required when conducting traffic breaks for all authorized planned construction, maintenance, and encroachment permit field activities on the SHS. Traffic breaks will be conducted by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) or other law enforcement officers.

The activity below is exempted from the PCMS and lane closure system (LCS) requirements:

- Emergency brief breaks (defined as one minute or less) conducted by a CHP officer or other law enforcement officer for the purpose of removing items from the traveled way.

The activity below is exempted from the LCS:

- A closure is already in place and the Engineer authorized for an on-duty officer to conduct a traffic break.

Background

Caltrans and the CHP have agreed that at least one PCMS will be provided when a planned traffic break is conducted by a CHP officer or other law enforcement officer. The purpose of using PCMS is to caution motorists of the change in traffic conditions resulting from a planned traffic break.

Implementation

This memorandum provides guidance regarding the implementation of the RSSs on the SHS. Traffic breaks can be considered for some activities to temporarily slow or stop traffic for a brief period of time (five minutes or as authorized) without having to set-up a closure (stationary, moving, or full closure). A traffic break is defined as a traffic operation conducted by a CHP officer or other law enforcement officer to temporarily slow or stop traffic within the traveled way at the request of maintenance, construction, and encroachment permit personnel. During a traffic break operation, the assigned officer turns on the patrol vehicle's rear emergency lights and slowly drives the vehicle across the traffic lanes in a serpentine pattern.

Placement of the PCMS shall be positioned sufficiently upstream of the planned traffic break to provide advance notice to motorists regarding the sudden change in traffic conditions before they approach the traffic queue.

A minimum of one (1) PCMS shall be placed during the planned traffic break. Additional PCMSs may be placed to caution motorists as needed.

A minimum of two (2) CHP vehicles (or other law enforcement vehicles) will be assigned to conduct a planned traffic break. One vehicle will conduct the traffic break, and the other vehicle will be stationed on the shoulder with its rear emergency lights on to caution motorists.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact James Anderson, Chief, Office of Traffic Management at (916) 654-5869, or by e-mail at <James.R.Anderson@dot.ca.gov>.

c: Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations
Karla Sutliff, Deputy Director, Project Delivery
James Anderson, Chief, Office of Traffic Management, Division of Traffic Operations