Preservation of Property

General Information

Structure Construction operations frequently occur in areas where there are existing utilities or other improvements which must be protected from damage and preserved or relocated. It is general practice to show utilities or other improvements on the plans, or list them in the Special Provisions. There are occasions; however, when utilities or improvements which exist in the construction area, are not shown on the plans or in the specifications, or are shown on the plans in a location other than where they are found in the field.

The Resident Engineer is responsible for the overall contract administrative duties associated with protecting and relocating utilities and improvements. All such items must be protected from damage or relocated in accordance with the following details.

Protecting Utilities and Improvements

The Standard Specifications require the Contractor to preserve and protect from damage, existing highway improvements or facilities, existing utility facilities, existing property improvements, etc., whether they are publicly or privately owned, and which are located within or adjacent to the highway right-of-way.

In connection with facilities and improvements, which are identified on the plans or in the Special Provisions, the Engineer has the authority to require the Contractor to furnish and install suitable protective devices to prevent property damage, and to require the Contractor to restore or repair any facility or improvement which may have been damaged by the Contractor's operations.

However, the Contractor's general responsibility includes only the installation of such devices as are necessary to protect against their operations. Any permanent protection which may be required, but which is not a part of the contract, must be authorized by a change order.

In the event, that the Contractor discovers underground facilities not identified on the plans or in the Special Provisions, the Contractor must immediately give the Engineer written notification of the existence of such facilities. Such facilities must be relocated or protected from damage, as directed by the Engineer, and the Contractor will be paid for such work as extra work.

Utility Relocation

The Construction Manual, Section 3-520, Property and Facility Preservation, covers this subject except for railroad work. All questions concerning permanent and/or temporary
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relocation of railroad facilities, including related utilities such as telegraph and signal communication lines, are handled through the Division of Right of Way and Land Surveys, Railroad Coordination and Utility Relocation Office.

Relocation of Survey Monuments and Bench Marks

Caltrans is required by the Professional Land Surveyor’s Act, Section 8771, Setting of Monuments in General; Monument Perpetuation, to arrange for the relocation of all monuments of record belonging to other governmental agencies if highway construction would otherwise result in their destruction.

Relocation of survey monuments and government bench marks will be handled by the District. The Structure Representative should notify the Resident Engineer when survey monuments are encountered and need to be relocated.

Existing High-Water Marks

Some existing structures have high water marks painted on them. If these structures are widened, repaired or replaced, the elevation of the previously painted high-water mark should be taken and recorded. If these high-water marks are lost during construction, they should be replaced at the completion of the work.