

**Construction Standards for projects on the  
National Highway System (NHS)**

# **Greenbook: Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction**

Presented by  
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Office Chief, Office of Guidance and Oversight



23 § CFR 625.3 (a)(1)

ECFR CONTENT

§ 625.3 Application.

(a) *Applicable standards.*

(1) Design and construction standards for new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing (except for maintenance resurfacing), restoration, or rehabilitation of a highway on the NHS **shall be those approved by the Secretary in cooperation with the State DOTs**. These standards must consider, in addition to the criteria described in § 625.2(a), the following:

- (i) The constructed and natural environment of the area;
- (ii) The environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and preservation impacts of the activity;
- (iii) Cost savings by utilizing flexibility that exists in current design guidance and regulations; and

# FHWA approval of 1985 edition of "Greenbook"



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
REGION NINE  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
P. O. Box 1915  
Sacramento, California 95809

NEVADA  
HAWAII  
GUAM  
AMERICAN SAMOA

May 31, 1985

IN REPLY REFER TO  
HOE-CA

File: 437

Mr. Leo J. Trombatore, Director  
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal-aid Branch, Room 3309  
for Mr. Bob Watkins, Office of  
Local Assistance

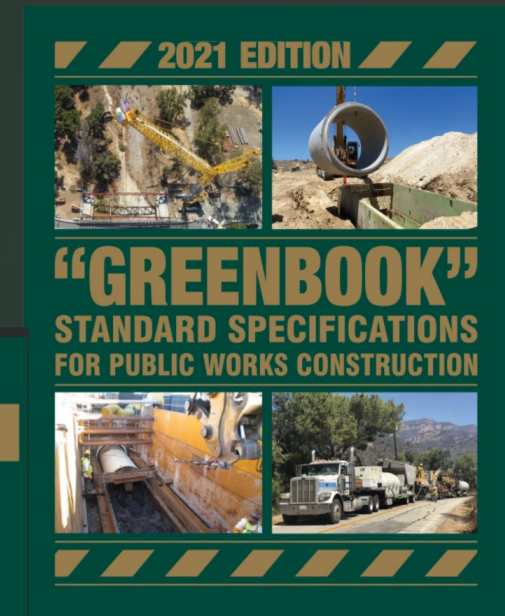
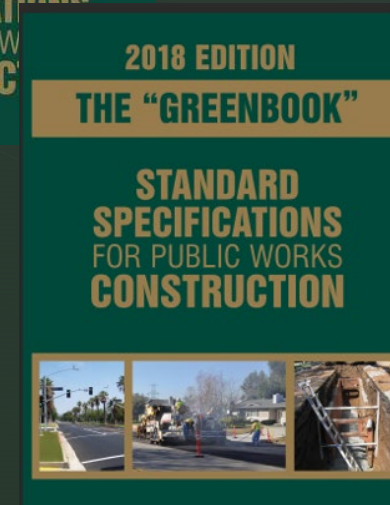
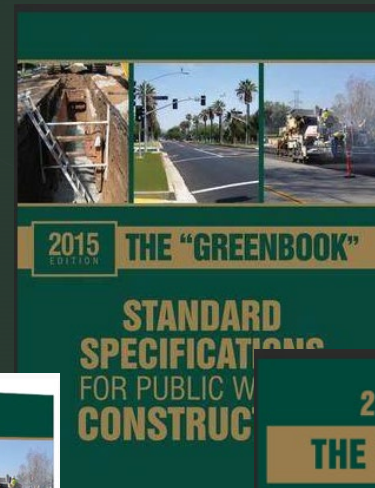
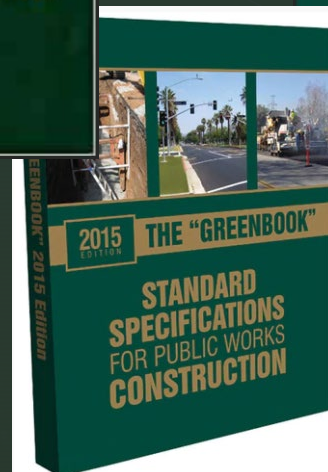
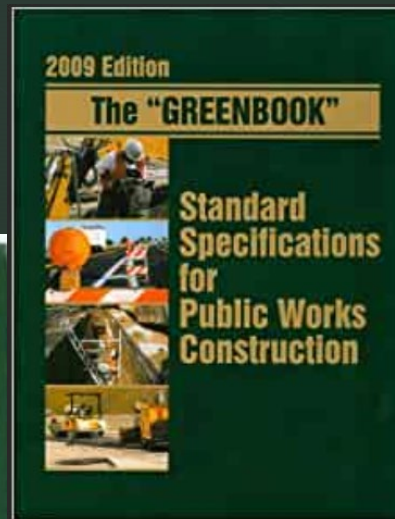
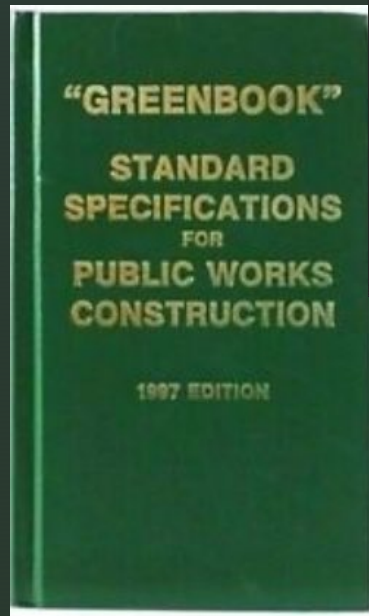
Dear Mr. Trombatore:

The 1985 edition of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction is approved effective June 1, 1985 for use on Federal-aid construction contracts. This approval is subject to the understanding that, in any conflict arising between the interpretation of these specifications and the provisions of applicable Federal statutes, the regulations for the administration of Federal-aid for highways, or the policies and procedures promulgated by the Federal Highway Administration for carrying out the provisions and purposes of the Federal laws and regulations, the latter shall prevail. Approval is also qualified by the comments to follow:



# “Greenbook” editions since 1985

The 2021 Edition is the 19th edition of this book, which is updated and republished every three years. There are 12 unapproved versions used until now -1988, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021





# Alternatives identified

Three potential alternatives identified by Caltrans and the Local Public Agencies (LPA):

- Require that Caltrans Standards “as is” be used on the National Highway System (NHS).
- Review and approve the entire content of the “Greenbook” and other local standards as requested by LPAs to be used as an acceptable standard.
- Adopt Caltrans Standards (CS) and approve additional specifications that address unique local requirements through use of Non-Standard Special Provisions (NSSPs) and expansion of Section 77 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

# Proposed Implementation Action Plan



Key Milestones	Milestone Description	Status Actual/Target Date
STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION	Coordination between Caltrans, LPAs and FHWA	Ongoing
WORKSHOP	Develop and hold workshop sessions to provide LPAs an overview of the proposed procedure.	August 2022- January 2023 T
PILOT PROGRAM	Selection of pilot agencies with pilot projects to implement the proposed plan	February 2023- August 2023 T
IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS	Roll out implementation plan: Set target cut off date for projects on NHS to only use approved standards per proposed plan	January 2024 T
STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT	Establish statistical random sampling of projects to provide stewardship and oversight to ensure and monitor compliance	January 2025 T



