



**California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
Agenda Item Report**



Meeting Date: May 7, 2026 Item Number: 26-04	From: Kathryn Kleinschmidt, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Devang Vora, Caltrans	Presented By: Kathryn Kleinschmidt, Caltrans
Description: Caltrans District 5 requests CTCDC approval for a new word message sign "COUNTY FIRE STATION"	

Recommendation:

Motion by committee to recommend inclusion of the proposed "COUNTY FIRE STATION" signs in new Option sections of CA MUTCD Chapter 2I.03.

Background:

The current signage in the 2026 CA MUTCD for fire stations is for CAL FIRE STATIONS (see below).

CAL Fire Station Signs (SG38A(CA) and SG39A(CA)) - Used to be green guide signs in the old version and now blue in the new version.

Option:

⁷⁶ The CAL FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT (SG38A(CA)) sign may be used on freeways in rural areas to give advance notice of an exit to a California Department of Forestry Station which is within 0.5 miles of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year.

⁷⁷ The CAL FIRE STATION with Arrow (SG39A(CA)) sign may be used in rural areas on expressways, conventional highways and freeway ramp terminals in advance of the turn off to a California Department of Forestry Fire Station which is within 0.5 miles of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year.

However, with most of the fire stations being County owned with Cal Fire assigned per the staffing contract, the request came in to update the guide signs from CAL FIRE STATION to COUNTY FIRE STATION. These fire stations have always been County owned but Caltrans installed Cal Fire guide signs.

In addition, there is no sign that is CA MUTCD compliant for a County Fire Station besides a general fire station warning sign (W11-8). However, this sign is typically used to inform the public of unexpected entries into the roadway by fire trucks.

Another very important reason why we need a sign for a "County Fire Station" is because Cal Fire oversees more forestry and wildfire management, and the Counties oversee incident management that includes fire suppression, emergency medical aid (often Advanced Life Support), hazardous materials response, and rescue operations



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within unincorporated areas. In addition, with no specific fire season designations anymore, most of these fire stations are now 24-hour/365-day facilities and have the public coming in anytime to notify them of an emergency.

Therefore, we would like to introduce a new sign to the CTCDC, “County Fire Station” with the caveat that this sign be installed and maintained at no cost to the state.

CalFire agreed to this direction, as the County is no longer a state agency and it makes sense they would use the EP process for these signs. In addition, we typically installed and maintained the Cal Fire signs so this EP process for the new signs might benefit Caltrans in the long run.



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Attachments:

Attachment A – Proposed New Option Sections 78 and 79 in Chapter 2I-03

Attachment B – Proposed Signage

Attachment C – Letters of Support

Attachment D – Table 2I-1 (CA)



ATTACHMENT A



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Attachment A – Proposed New Sections in 2I.03

CHAPTER 2I. GENERAL SERVICE SIGNS FOR FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

Proposal:

Note - **Red text** is newly proposed text

Modify Chapter 2I-03 as shown:

Add County Fire Station Signs (SG38B (CA) and SG39B (CA))

Option:

⁷⁸ The COUNTY FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT (SG38B(CA)) sign may be used on freeways in rural areas to give advance notice of an exit to a County Fire Station which is within 0.5 miles of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year. These signs are to be furnished and installed "at no cost to the State" through an encroachment permit.

⁷⁹ The COUNTY FIRE STATION with Arrow (SG39B(CA)) sign may be used in rural areas on expressways, conventional highways and freeway ramp terminals in advance of the turn off to a County Fire Station which is within 0.5 miles of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year. These signs are to be furnished and installed "at no cost to the State" through an encroachment permit.

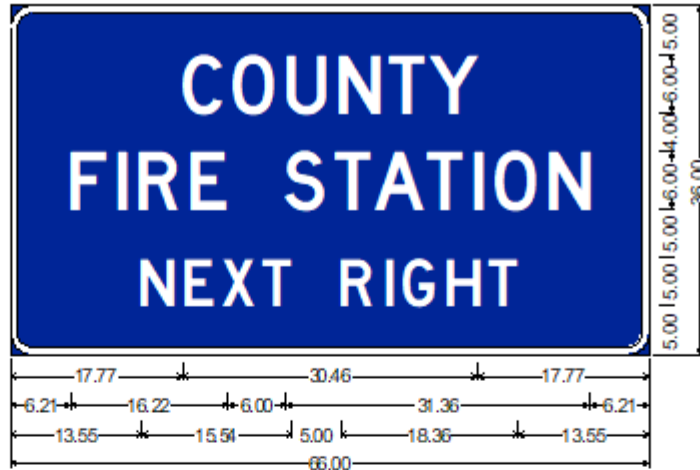


ATTACHMENT B

Attachment B – Proposed SG38B (CA) and SG39B (CA) signs to be added to Figure 2I-1(CA)

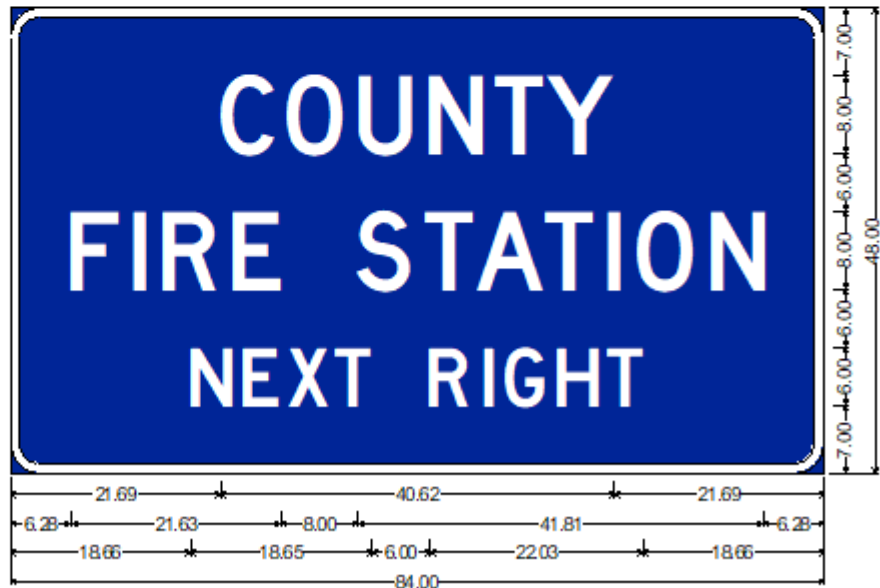
Proposed SG38B(CA) Sign:

Conventional Road:



SG38B(CA);
2.25" Radius, 0.75" Border, White on Blue;
"COUNTY", D; "FIRE STATION", D; "NEXT RIGHT", D;

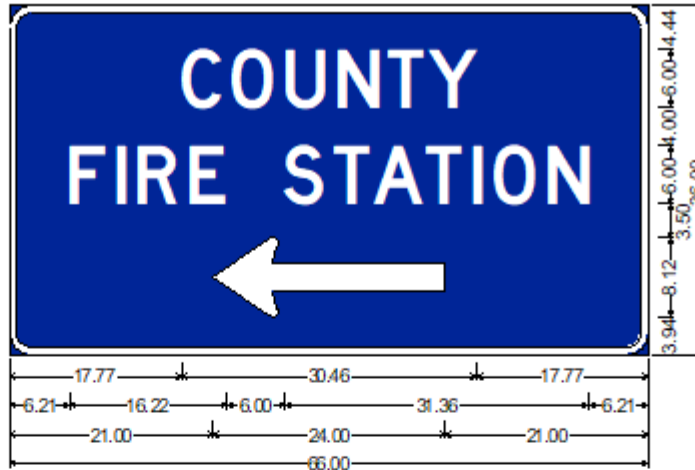
Freeway / Expressway:



SG38B(CA);
3.00" Radius, 1.00" Border, White on Blue;
"COUNTY", D; "FIRE STATION", D; "NEXT RIGHT", D;

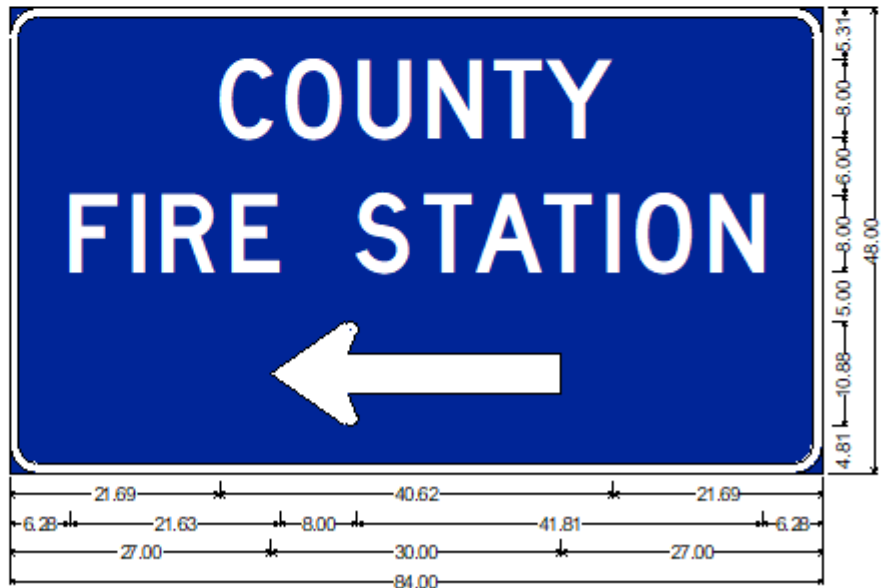
Proposed SG39B(CA) Sign:

Conventional Road:



SG39B(CA);
2.25" Radius, 0.75" Border, White on Blue;
"COUNTY", D; "FIRE STATION", D;
Standard Arrow Custom 21.00" X 8.13" 180°;

Freeway / Expressway:



SG39B(CA);
3.00" Radius, 1.00" Border, White on Blue;
"COUNTY", D; "FIRE STATION", D; Standard Arrow Custom 30.00" X 10.88" 180°;

Figure 2I-1(CA). California General Service Signs and Plaques



G58P(CA)



G66-21aP(CA)



G66-21cP(CA)



G66-55(CA)



G66-56(CA)



G66-56aP(CA)



G66-11B(CA)



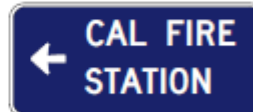
G66-57A(CA)



G66-61A(CA)



SG38A(CA)



SG39A(CA)



SG38B(CA)



SG39B(CA)



ATTACHMENT C



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Attachment C – Letters of Support

From: Dunlap, Marcus@CALFIRE
To: Kleinschmidt, Kathryn@DOT
Cc: Grady, Eva@CALFIRE
Subject: Request for signage on Agenda
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 7:47:28 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-CAL FIRE_S.png](#)
[Outlook-facebook i.png](#)
[Outlook-twitter ic.png](#)
[Outlook-youtube ic.png](#)
[Outlook-instagram .png](#)

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization. Please be careful when viewing message

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Kathy,

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with us today. Will the following work for a request to get the signage added as an agenda item?

CAL FIRE, representing San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, is asking for consideration to update signage for two fire stations in San Luis Obispo County.

San Luis Obispo County Fire is a long-standing cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE, in place since 1930, in which CAL FIRE provides staffing and operational support for a county-funded, all-risk fire protection. These stations function as the primary local fire department for their communities, providing 24/7 emergency response including structure fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, rescues, and specialized services such as hazardous materials response, surf rescue, and urban search and rescue.

From a public safety and operational standpoint, clear and accurate identification of these stations as **County Fire** is important for several reasons:

- **Public clarity and trust:** Residents and visitors rely on signage to identify their local fire department. Labeling these stations as County Fire aligns with how services are delivered and funded at the community level.
- **Wayfinding and emergency access:** Accurate signage improves the public's ability to locate the nearest fire station during emergencies, reducing confusion and delays.
- **Operational distinction:** County Fire engines are dedicated to local response and community protection, while CAL FIRE resources support a broader statewide wildland mission and are frequently mobilized outside the area.
- **Transparency for stakeholders:** As the County continues to invest in staffing and

service levels, clearly identifying County Fire stations supports public understanding of local fire protection resources and service delivery.

Updating signage to reflect **County Fire** at these locations ensures consistency with the operational reality, enhances public safety, and improves overall system clarity for both the traveling public and the communities we serve.

Please let me know if that will be enough to get it added to the agenda while the formal letters from the department and County.

Can you also confirm the day and time for the meeting so that I can make sure we have a representative from our department available?

Thank you,



Marcus F. Dunlap

Battalion Chief - B3402 SLU Administration

HazMat Team Leader

100 Cross Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

C (805) 540-9402





ATTACHMENT D



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**Attachment D – Proposed SW38B (CA) and SW39B (CA) signs to be added to
Table 2I-1(CA)**

Table 2I-1(CA). California General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Call Box	SG25(CA)	2I.03	18 x 24	30 x 36
CAL FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT	SG38A(CA)	2I.03	76 x 30	102 x 36
COUNTY FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT	SG38B(CA)	2I.03	66 x 36	84 x 48
CAL FIRE STATION with Arrow	SG39A(CA)	2I.03	48 x 21	60 x 30
COUNTY FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT	SG39B(CA)	2I.03	66 x 36	84 x 48
END CALL BOXES	SG41(CA)	2I.03	36 x 36	48 x 48
CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER X MILES	SG47A(CA)	2I.08	66 x 48	108 x 66
CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER NEXT RIGHT	SG47B(CA)	2I.08	66 x 48	108 x 66
CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER with Arrow	SG47C(CA)	2I.08	42 x 24	54 x 30
CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER X MILES with Arrow	SG47D(CA)	2I.08	42 x 28	54 x 36
Rest Area/Vista Point 8 HOUR PARKING	S23(CA)	2B.52, 2I.05	24 x 24	---
NO SOLICITING	S24(CA)	2I.05	24 x 18	---
Highway Patrol PARKING ONLY	S34(CA)	2I.05	12 x 18	---
10 HOUR PARKING COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES	R39-3(CA)	2B.52, 2I.05	24 x 18	---