

**PROPOSAL FOR EXPERIMENTAL USE OF NON-STANDARD TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE
-WILDLIFE CROSSING SIGN**

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works requests permission to conduct an experiment using non-standard Wildlife Crossing Sign to determine their effectiveness in improving driving safety in mountain area.

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Wild animals make frequent appearances on the public roadway across San Bernardino County mountain area. The current CA MUTCD Section 2C.50 approved non-vehicle warning signs include 9 types of animal crossing signages (W11-3, W11-4, W11-16, W11-17, W11-18, W11-19, W11-20, W11-21 and W11-22) to be used to alert road users in advance of locations where unexpected entries into the roadway might occur or where shared use of roadway by animals. See non-vehicle warning signs below for reference:



The main concern with the current standard is the animal crossing warning signs incorporated in MUTCD are too specific, there are certain types of wild animals/species not listed in the approved signs which include but not limited to coyote, fox, snake and other additional smaller size animals.

Another concern is that for some locations with a high density of multiple animal species, additional signages may need to be installed. See Figure 1 below as an example:



Figure 1. W-13 and W-16 signs at Valley of the Falls Drive

As shown in the figure above, there are two existing signs in Forest Fall area for both deer and bear crossing, and a third sign was also installed at this location for big horn sheep. Installing multiple animal warning signs within a close range will requires extra funding, time, and effort for maintainance.

Additional concern is that the collaboration of signages may be too bright under the sunlight and can often affect the visibility of the drivers in the community and sensitive areas. Also, multiple signs with excessive information at one location may confuse drivers and the signs will commonly been ignored.

Thus, as explained above, for certain areas with possible activities of various animal species, it may be more beneficial to use a wildlife crossing sign with generic information that alert drivers regarding animal appearances.

2. PROPOSED SOLUTION

The San Bernardino County Public Works wishes to participate in the experimentation to installing the Wild Life Crossing sign at three (3) locations along Valley of Falls Drive within 2 miles east of State Highway 38. All locations are currently been requested by local residents for additional signage due animal crossing at high frequency, and are under investigation. The proposed wild life crossing sign is shown as below:

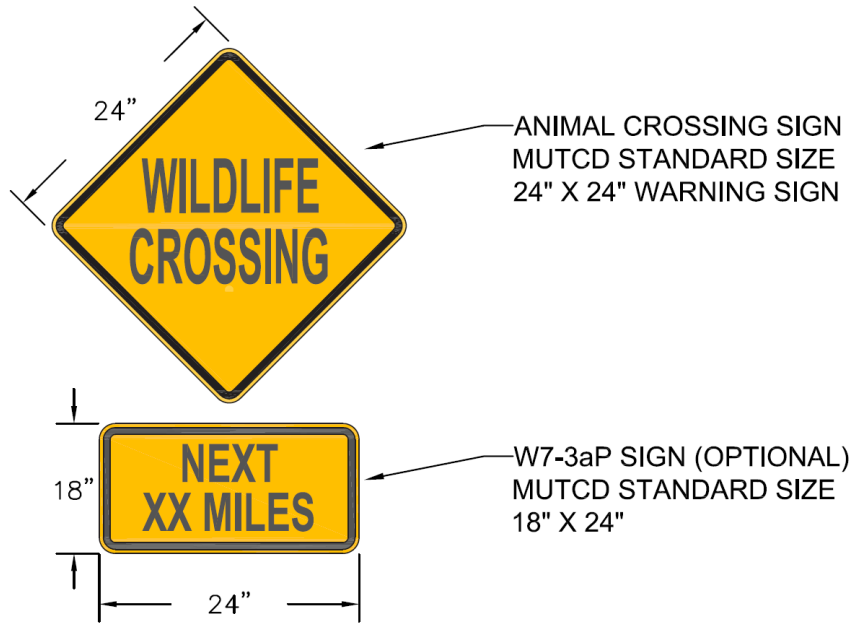


Figure 2. Proposed Sample Wildlife Crossing Sign by County

One of the main reasons of seeking CTCDC’s permission is to eventually gain Caltrans approval in experimenting the Wildlife Crossing sign at all locations in San Bernardino County.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective is to determine the usage and effectiveness of the Wildlife Crossing Sign in improving driving safety at Mountain Area across San Bernardino County.

4. EXPERIMENT SCHEDULE & LOCATION

- Pre-Installation Evaluation January to March 2022
- Installation June 2022
- Experimental Period June 2022 to June 2023
- Evaluation of Results September 2023

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. San Bernardino County Department of Public Works is looking forward to receiving a positive response from the Committee. Please feel free to contact me at (909) 387-8193 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Lei Li
Supervising Engineer

**PROPOSAL TO THE CALIFORNIA TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES COMMITTEE FOR
EXPERIMENTATION OF A NEW TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE: WILDLIFE CROSSING SIGN**

SCOPE

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works proposes to experiment non MUTCD standard Wildlife Crossing Signs to improve driving safety.

According to residents’ request recently on January 2022, County is planning to install Wildlife Crossing Signs at 3 locations as shown in the figure 3 and listed below:

- Location 1. 250 feet East of Valley of the Falls Drive and State Highway 38 Intersection
- Location 2. 125 feet East of Valley of the Falls Drive and State Canyon Drive Intersection
- Location 3. 100 feet East of Valley of the Falls Drive and Sunset Lane Intersection



Figure 3. Proposed Location Map

WORK PLAN

Installation

The Wildlife Crossing signs will be installed at multiple locations and replace existing Animal Crossing Signs.

Evaluation

Effectiveness and acceptance will be measured in accordance with the time period and evaluation procedures shown below.

Time Period

The schedule for testing is as follows:

- Pre-Installation Evaluation January to March 2022
- Installation June 2022
- Experimental Period June 2022 to June 2023
- Evaluation of Results September 2023

WORK PLAN

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works requests that the Committee approve the preliminary evaluation plan outlined below. Other criteria and procedures may evolve during the evaluation period. These additional ways of evaluating the use of non-standard Wildlife Crossing sign and any changes in procedures added to the assessment criteria will be discussed in the scheduled reports submitted to the project sponsor and the Committee.

- 1) Installation Documentation – to be prepared by San Bernardino County personnel.
- 2) Maintenance Recording – to be performed throughout the life of the experimentation period. A separate maintenance log sheet will be created. Periodic inspections will be performed and logged by San Bernardino County personnel.
- 3) Accident data will be monitored and analyzed by San Bernardino County personnel.
- 4) Observations will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the operation. Feedback from local driver and residents may be used to help document the operation and for reporting to the Committee, Caltrans, and other interested public agencies.

Measures of effectiveness and acceptance during the before and after the testing period may include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

- Compare the total number of accidents or accident rates in the area
- Evaluate driver behaviors and driving speed at each location
- Compare the number complying and percentage of driver complying with the signs
- Inquire response from local residents regarding the effectiveness of the signs

ADMINISTRATION

Sponsoring Agency: San Bernardino County Department of Public Works

Contact Information: Lei Li

Supervising Engineer

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works

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Manufactures: Vendor(s) to be determined by April, 2002

Installations: Transportation Operation Section, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works