

Memorandum

To: HAMED BENOUAR,
Program Manager
Traffic Operation

Date: March 12, 1999

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Program Manager
Maintenance

File No:

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Traffic Operations
Mail Station 36

Subject: Sheeting Material for Guide Signs

This is to confirm our agreement regarding Caltrans policy and practice for sheeting material to be used for guide signs with award of the next guide sign contract (expected July 1999).

ASTM Type III or IV sheeting will be used for the green background on all overhead and ground mounted guide signs. The legends and borders on these signs will be cutout retroreflective sheeting (as opposed to button copy) of a type, which will provide appropriate contrast ratio with the background sheeting. Districts will be encouraged to request anti-graffiti overlay if a sign is to be placed in a graffiti prone area.

For all other (other colors) guide signs the basic policy will be ASTM Type II.

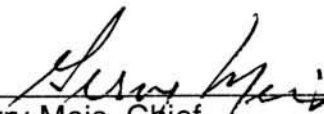
Based on current contract prices, we estimate these changes will increase Caltrans initial sign purchase costs by about \$1.5 million per year.

The primary reasons for these changes are:

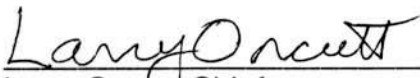
- 1) Service to motorists will be enhanced by providing more conspicuous roadway signing
- 2) Expected year 2000 revisions to Federal MUTCD will contain the following standards: (1) "Regulatory, warning, and guide signs shall be retroreflective or illuminated to show the same shape and color both day and night..."(2) The background of all signs that are not independently illuminated shall be retroreflective."
- 3) We believe FHWA will, in the next few years, adopt a minimum level of retroreflectivity that must be maintained for pavement markings and signs. This is required by the 1993 DOT Appropriations Act (Public Law 102-388).
- 4) This will make Caltrans guide signs consistent with what we have been doing with warning, regulatory and construction signs-i.e. those signs which are more important for the motorist to see are the ones that have greater conspicuity.

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- 5) The sign manufacturing industry is changing because more public agencies are purchasing retroreflective sheeting with cutout borders and legends. Therefore we are likely to get more competitive bids in the future.



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Office of Signs and Delineation



Larry Orcutt, Chief
Office of Highway Maintenance

Gmies:pcr