

Memorandum

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To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Traffic Operations

Date: September 26, 2006

From: STEVE PRICE
Interim Division Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: The Adoption of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

As of today, September 26, 2006, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has adopted the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD), the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) MUTCD 2003 Revision 1, as amended for use in California for uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices in California. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of California Vehicle Code Section 21400 and the recommendation of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC).

The California MUTCD supersedes the previously adopted (May 20, 2004) FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement as well as all the traffic control device topics (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and the traffic signals portion of chapter 9) in the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual, as amended, and all previous editions thereof.

The non-traffic control device topics of the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, and the lighting portion of chapter 9) are being retained in their current form until they are assimilated into other manuals or guidelines. These documents are available on the Internet at the following web sites:

California MUTCD: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/mutcdsupp/>

Caltrans Traffic Manual: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/signdel/trafficmanual.htm>

The California MUTCD's draft versions were made available to the Department's district staff, local agencies and the general public for review and comment through two open public comment periods, which closed on November 14, 2005, and May 30, 2006. These public comment periods were followed by CTCDC workshops on November 16, 2005, and June 1, 2006, respectively. Resolutions and decisions reached, in these and other regular CTCDC meetings, since May 20, 2004, are reflected in the California MUTCD.

This single document, being more comprehensive and easier to use, will lead to greater uniformity in application of traffic control devices in California with nationwide practices by encouraging the traffic control device practitioners to use. This increased uniformity will improve transportation safety and mobility for both California residents and visitors, alike.

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The electronic version posted on the California MUTCD website is the official California Department of Transportation publication and can be downloaded and printed from this web site. Efforts pursuing the publication of this document are underway.

The California MUTCD does not supersede the Department's Standard Plans, Standard Specifications or the Special Provisions publications. Nothing contained in the California MUTCD shall prevent the Department from modifying, changing or adopting new specifications as necessary.

The Division of Traffic Operations gratefully acknowledges the headquarters and districts staff for providing guidance and direction in the development of this document. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Johnny Bhullar, of my staff at (916) 654-7312 or via e-mail at johnny_bhullar@dot.ca.gov.

c: Devinder Singh, Secretary, CTCDC
Johnny Bhullar, Traffic Operations

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bc: Steve Price, Interim Division Chief, Traffic Operations
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JB/amc