

**Chapter 2 – Project Plans****August 2020****2-2.14 Construction Area Signs****General***Sign Use*

Construction area signs include all temporary signs required for the direction of public traffic through and around the work during project construction.

Construction area signs, shown on the construction area sign plans, are only those signs that identify the begin and end points of project work on the state highway involved and the signs placed on local streets which intersect or connect to the state highway within the project limits. See "Construction Area Sign Plans" within this section for further information.

Construction area signs, shown on the stage construction, traffic handling, and detour construction plans, are those temporary signs used for the direction of public traffic through and around the project limits during construction. See Section 2-2.16 for further information regarding stage construction plans, traffic handling plans and detour construction plans.

With the exception of temporary signs used for motorist information as described in Section 2-2.15, the locations of temporary construction signs should be within the project begin and end work limits as shown on the project title sheet.

Construction area signs also appear on the traffic control system standard plans ("T" series). These standard plans show lane closures or ramp closures, which are for short periods of time (usually installed and removed on a daily basis).

Payment for the temporary signs illustrated on the "T" series standard plans is not included in the lump sum bid item for construction area signs, but is included in the lump sum item for traffic control system.

*Sign Identification and Details*

Standardized temporary construction signs shall be identified on the project plans by their California or Federal sign designations and sign message. Nonstandard temporary construction signs should be identified as special signs.

The California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) contains uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices, including construction work zones. Part 6 of the CA MUTCD deals exclusively with temporary traffic control and is available at this website:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>

Sign designations with "(CA)" suffix indicate signs unique to California. You can find links to drawings for both California signs and Federal signs at this website:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/sign-specs>

Detailed drawings of standard temporary construction signs in the project plans are not required.

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A detailed drawing with the dimensions of the sign panel, color of the sign, sign message and message layout of the sign panel shall be included for each special (nonstandard) temporary construction sign used. See Section 2-2.18 for further information regarding details for special (nonstandard) signs.

Construction area signs designated as stationary mounted on the plans are installed on wood posts, or with the approval by the construction engineer, they may be installed on existing ground sign supports, existing lighting standards or other supports.

Construction area signs designated as portable on the plans are installed on portable bases, standards or frameworks.

If stationary mounted signs are to be used, the signs should be clearly designated as stationary mounted on the plan sheets. A separate table can be used to show information about the stationary mounted construction area signs with the header for the table reading “STATIONARY MOUNTED CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS”.

If portable signs are to be used, the signs should be clearly designated as portable on the plan sheets. A separate table can be used to show information about the portable construction area signs with the header for the table reading “PORTABLE CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS”.

Construction area signs are removed when no longer required for the direction of public traffic.

Construction area signs are contractor furnished.

## Construction Area Sign Plans

The strip map from the project title sheet is typically used for the construction area sign plans. Only those existing topographic features essential for orientation purposes need to be identified on the construction area sign plans.

"Road Work Ahead" and "End Road Work" signs are shown on the construction area sign plans to alert motorist of construction activities within the project limits. The "Road Work Ahead (W20-1)" sign replaces the formerly used "Road Construction Ahead (C18)" and the "End Road Work (G20-2)" sign replaces the formerly used "End Construction (C13)" sign. These changes are a result of Caltrans adopting the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Include this note on the construction area sign plan sheets: "APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGN WORK ONLY."

If stage construction plans, traffic handling plans, detour construction plans or motorist information plans are included in the project plan set, add a note to the construction area sign plans regarding additional construction area signs shown on the other plan sheets.

## Chapter 2 – Project Plans Quantities

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The construction area signs shown on the construction area sign plans shall be summarized in tabular format with the following information:

- "Stationary Mounted" included in title of table, if all signs are stationary mounted.
- Sign letter (same sign identification as used to graphically show location of the sign on Construction Area Signs (CAS) sheet) within a symbol should be used when quantifying construction area signs on the CAS plan sheet.
- When CAS are shown on other plan sheets like Detour Plan, Stage Construction and Traffic Handling Plan etc., sign number (same sign identification as used to graphically show location of signs on those plan sheets) should be used when quantifying CAS on those plan sheets.
- When additional construction area signs are shown on Detour plans, Stage Construction and Traffic Handling plans etc., a note should be included on the CAS plan sheet to let the contractor and the construction personnel know that additional Construction Area Signs are shown on other sheets.
- Sign designation – Show the full sign designation for all signs. Include the "(CA)" suffix for "CALIFORNIA" only signs.
- Panel size.
- Sign message.
- Number and size of posts, if the sign is to be stationary mounted.

Include the following note below the summary of constructions area signs:

"EXACT SIGN LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ENGINEER".

Variations of the above note as shown in the Examples "A-1", "B-1", "B-2", "B-3", B-4" and "65 CS-1" can be also used.

Construction area signs are paid for by lump sum, therefore the heading in the summary of construction area signs regarding the quantity of the signs shall be "No. of Signs" instead of the typical designation for the number of units "EA" or each.

Construction area signs shown on stage construction, traffic handling, and detour construction plans shall be summarized with their respective sheets in tabular format.

A cross reference note shall be added to the respective plans regarding additional construction area signs shown on other plan sheets.

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