

Group Memory
 Landscape Architecture Contractor Forum
 March 2, 2010
 Southern California Meeting

Upshot

These are the assignments made at the meeting.

| Ref. # | Who | What | Due |
|--------|-------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Jack | Provide Contractors with list of Major Damage Coordinators. | 6/2010 |
| 2 | Greg | Provide Contractors easy access to current and proposed project lists - advertised projects, emergency projects, roadside rest areas, etc. | 3/2010 |
| 3 | Greg | Develop Caltrans Construction Manual guidance to help ensure the pre-measurement of erosion control areas as well as inspector availability for the adding of erosion control materials to the hydroseeding rig tank. | 9/2010 |
| 4 | Greg | Notify and collect 2010 Plain Language feedback from the Contractors when the draft version is complete this year. | 9/2010 |
| 5 | Jack & Greg | Meet with Compost Producers to verify compost specified in the 2010 specifications is commercially available. | 5/2010 |

Critique from this meeting:

| What went well | What Needs Improvement |
|--|---|
| Open discussion. Location Topics Clear understanding of what needs to be done Lunch Good climate – not adversarial. Good contractor participation. | Input from Caltrans on what is and is not working. Have staff attend. It would be good to have construction inspection at the table, not just LA. It is hard to discuss Mtce problems if there is no one from Mtce here. End earlier... Start earlier... |

1. Expectations and opening
 1. 1. CT: Hear about the general construction permit.
 1. 2. Learn more about how to get hooked into Caltrans work.
 1. 3. Learn about the bidding process.
 1. 4. CT: What can we do better? How can we make specs better, more clear?
 1. 5. SWRCB – Confirm that we are not conflicting with other standards. Get feedback from you.
 1. 6. Hear where things have been going the last few years.
 1. 7. A lot happens as a result of these meetings and I support them.
 1. 8. Familiarize myself with the specs.
 1. 9. Review what we discussed in past meetings, see how it has been incorporated.
 1. 10. CT: Empower you to give us real feedback. Stormwater, small business opportunities, and things we have done to reflect past discussions.
 1. 11. Get update since last meeting.
2. Trends and Issues:
 2. 1. Information will be available on the web site –
 2. 2. No new projects being added in 2010.
 2. 3. Bid savings due to competition and competitive bids resulted in 400 million savings. We will work between now and August to get projects out quickly. Stimulus funds did not add staff to get more work out. There will be some “minor B” landscape projects and erosion control work.
3. Past action items review
 3. 1. Erosion control –
 3. 1. 1. Not clear in spec when the word “or” is used – do they sometimes mean “and?” CT needs to be clear when they mean “or,” and when they mean “and.”
 3. 1. 2. Are you looking at method or outcome? Don’t mix performance specifications with materials specifications.
 3. 1. 3. Pre-measurement: Measuring and Marking of erosion control /disturbed areas – it is not clear who is doing what – the engineer is directing me to place the stakes? It needs to state who will furnish what – “You will furnish x, y and z.” The design ers often miss the measurement due to the differences in methods, software, etc.
 3. 1. 4. Pre measurement: When inspector agrees on one thing, and you put out the materials, sometimes there is a different inspector who comes out to measure what you did; other times they tell you “You measure it, you spray it, and we will do our measurement later.”

- 3. 1. 5. Pre-measurement should be done prior to construction – do the measurement first, not at the end.
- 3. 1. 6. Pre-measurement: Seed is costly and the order is irreversible. We need to know HOW MUCH TO ORDER. Prior to ordering materials, “CONTRACTOR AND ENGINEER SHALL AGREE TO...” Think things through before you do them so they don’t change, so someone doesn’t measure later. Changing things at the last minute is not good. Things have to be planned thoroughly ahead of time for things to really work. The seed is provided by the supplier in predetermined quantities to facilitate the mixing in the field.
- 3. 1. 7. Pre-measurement: We can usually get things the next day if you call for seed early enough in the day.
- 3. 1. 8. Need to accommodate the rainy season....
- 3. 1. 9. Modifier matrix – need to say what is all in one bag – describe clearly what you are specifying.
- 3. 2. Dust/Air Quality – the AQMD people shut down the project because there is a plume of dust over traffic, etc.
- 3. 2. 1. Blown straw – cut it out if you can- it is cheap and easy to put out. Modify the equipment to have a water jet outside the chute.
- 3. 2. 2. Hydrostraw does not have the long strands.
- 3. 2. 3. Wind is difficult to predict. Stopping the job is difficult – you have a crew on site and equipment to handle the materials... traffic control, etc. Hydraulic application is way cheaper in terms of labor.
- 3. 2. 4. Green waste is probably as cheap as straw, and it can last for years. Would like to see more verbiage on green waste.
- 3. 3. Soil testing – Can’t Geotech staff check the soils when they do drilling samples, etc?
- 3. 3. 1. Needs to be done in the design phase.
- 3. 3. 2. Spend a few dollars to identify soil problems.
- 3. 3. 3. Core sampling from twenty feet down may not provide a comprehensive picture of the soil conditions at the finished site. Caltrans will continue to work on this.
- 3. 4. Seed
- 3. 4. 1. Availability of seed should be verified by the CT construction inspector
- 3. 4. 2. Low bid – substitution - availability. Could you require documentation to prove the seed is not available? Proof that contact that was made from other vendors?

- 3. 4. 3. Caltrans will be meeting with the seed vendors to work on the seed issues.
- 3. 4. 4. Vendor seed mix design has an economic component in it which dictates what the architect has available.
- 3. 5. Measurement of Bulk Materials
- 3. 5. 1. Settlement is not usually 10%, as claimed in this presentation. Usually it is less.
- 3. 5. 2. Don't go by weight
- 3. 5. 3. Go by the area and depth, not the truck measurement. Look at the finished product. In this case, load tickets don't figure in to the discussion at all.
- 3. 5. 4. CT needs to ensure construction inspectors are there when they need to be there to verify the loads. Every truck that comes in should be measured.
- 3. 5. 5. You can sit for two or three hours waiting for an inspector.
- 3. 6. Certification
- 3. 6. 1. Caltrans needs to identify what a "lot" is.
- 3. 6. 2. Seems like "lot" can only work for seed.

4. 2010 Plans and Specs

- 4. 1. Caltrans will be sending out draft specs and would like your comments on the draft.
- 4. 2. Time and materials – there are three components – labor, materials and equipment. Where do we put our labor? How do we bid our labor?
- 4. 3. The proposal for the new Standard Spec will cost a lot to have us figure out what the cost per square foot is...
- 4. 4. Contractors prefer payment by area.
- 4. 5. What happens when the inspector is not there? How can we verify the material?
- 4. 6. Caltrans is trying to do away with the cost breakdown.
- 4. 7. Should we use a performance spec, not a method spec?

5. 2010 General Construction Permit

- 5. 1. Jack B will get the memo from the Chief Engineer on the General Construction Permit and send it out.

6. Open Forum discussion

- 6. 1. Watering water management plan: How will we address drought /watering – What day will we water? Day watering? Watering at night? CT and Contractors need to get together to address those issues. Reclaimed Water purveyors want the same rules ... We need a task force to address this

collaboratively. How do we manage the mandates from the local /water agencies?

6. 1. 1. Drought Task force?
6. 1. 2. We need a drought strategy in San Diego County, for example.