



Caltrans Contractor Meeting

Plain Language Specifications



Caltrans Contractor Meeting

What is the Plain
Language
Rewrite?



Goals:

- Streamlined Project Development
- Elimination of Redundant Language
- Clear & Direct Language
- Reduced Claims and CCOs

Clear concise language that reduces claims and CCOs.



Implementation

NOW:

Contracts Advertised July 2009:

- Sections 1-9 (General)
- Sections 10-15 (General Construction)

WHEN Does this Take Place?

Check the front of your current contract documents for the “Amendments to the Standard Specifications”.

Likely dated 07-31-2009 or 02-11-2010!

Includes a Plain Language rewrite of Standard Specifications Sections 1-9 and 10-15.

375 Pages!

Sections 1-9

Definitions, bidder instructions, licensing, insurance, changes, partnering, HIERARCHY, dispute resolution, liquidated damages, measurement and payment,

Sections 10-15

Traffic control, Environmental requirements, existing highway facilities.



Implementation

NEXT:

- Books Available – Mid 2011
- Use On All Projects – December 2011?

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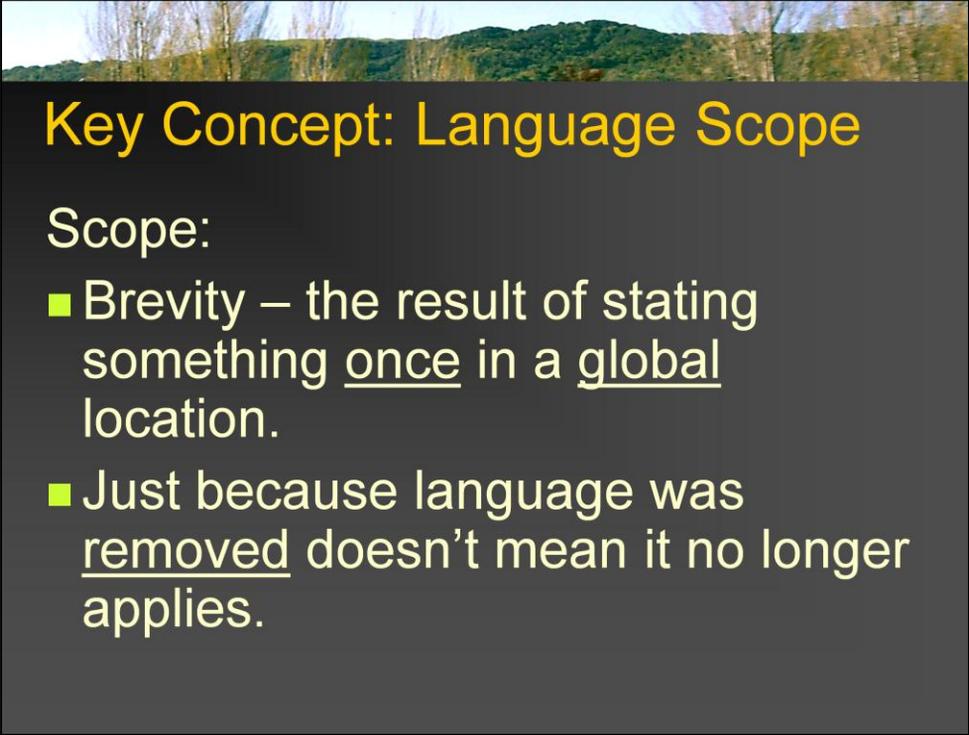


Plain Language Rewrite

Key Concepts

Here are some KEY Concepts to keep in mind regarding the 2010 PLV rewrite.

You need to understand these fundamentals in Sections 1-15 before you can correctly interpret sections 19-99.



Key Concept: Language Scope

Scope:

- Brevity – the result of stating something once in a global location.
- Just because language was removed doesn't mean it no longer applies.

Brevity in the Plain Language Specifications is achieved through saying something only ONCE, in the correct location.

Just because something was removed DOES NOT mean that it no longer applies.

It is very important to understand the SCOPE of the language in the Plain Language documents.

SECTION 1-9 APPLY TO EVERY JOB.

What's in Section 1-9? Not sufficient time to cover this in detail



Language Scope: Examples

Deleted:	Because:
"As shown on the plans"	Section 5-1: Drawings are part of the contract.
"By the Engineer"	Section 5-1: Orders, certifications, and requests to the Contractor are <u>by the Engineer</u> .
"In writing"	Section 5-1: Authorizations, certifications, approvals, notifications, and orders are <u>in writing</u> .
"As determined by the Engineer"	Section 5-1 defines the Engineer's Authority.
<Work Description> includes furnishing materials.	Section 5-1: Furnish the resources required to complete the work.

Specific examples of language that does not need to be repeated because it is covered in "global" Section 5.



Key Concept: Bid Items

Project Description (Section 4)

- The bid items set forth the specifications that apply.
 - A bid item may have no special provisions.
 - A bid item may have no plans.

BIG Key Concept

BID ITEMS are the structure, the framework upon which everything (Plans, Specs) else hangs.

NO LONGER does each item require a specification as all the work may be included in the Standard Specifications.

The old (pre-2010) language was:

“The special provisions, project plans, and bid item descriptions set forth the specifications that apply.”



Key Concept: Payment

Payment (Section 9)

- For Sections 1-9
 - Full compensation is included in the payment for the bid items involved.
- For Sections 9-99
 - Payment is covered by the items in the Bid Item List.

BIG Key Concepts

Payment for work in Sections 1-9 is included in the bid items in the bid item list.

Payment for work in Sections 9-99 includes everything included within the specification for that bid item.

No separate full comp clause required.

Note – A work item may have NO specification. Look to the BID Items to bid the work.



New Language Example:

Before Plain Language:

At the option of the Contractor, a growth regulator may be applied to mowed areas, provided the growth regulator is approved in advance by the Engineer and the growth regulator is applied in conformance with these special provisions. If a growth regulator is approved and applied, the growth regulator shall be at the Contractor's expense.

At the option of the Contractor, plants of a larger container size than those originally specified may be used for replacement plants during the first 125 working days of the plant establishment period. The use of plants of a larger container size than those originally specified for replacement plants shall be at the Contractor's expense.

After Plain Language:

A growth regulator may be applied to mowed areas.¶

Replacement of plants up to and including the 125th plant establishment working day must be of the same size as originally specified. You may use larger container size plants.¶

A good example of Brevity as a result of less language due to “scope”.
Before and After...

CAN YOU FIND A BETTER EXAMPLE GREG? MOVED FROM SPEC TO PLAN?



Plain Language Rewrite

Erosion Control



Erosion Control PLV Goals

- “A La Carte” (vs Predefined) Specifications
- Consolidates Information Currently Scattered on the Specifications & Plans
- Flexibility

Flexibility to select and combine the best appropriate materials.

We will look at this in more detail later – hold this thought.

BIG CHANGE

Actually Not REALLY so big:

MOVED SSPS to the Std Specs and the Plans.

Changed payment from “Assemblies” back to Individual Materials.

Significant Changes:

Application **Old – In SSP**

Apply erosion control (Hydroseed) materials in separate applications in the following sequence:

- Apply the following mixture with hydroseeding equipment at the rates indicated within 60 minutes after the seed has been added to the mixture:

Material	Pounds Per Acre (Slope Measurement)
Seed	
Fiber	
Commercial Fertilizer	
Organic Fertilizer	

- Apply straw at the rate of ___ tons per acre based on slope measurements. Incorporation of straw will not be required. Distribute straw evenly without clumping or piling.
- Apply the following mixture with hydro-seeding equipment at the corresponding rates:

Material	Pounds Per Acre (Slope Measurement)
Fiber	
Commercial Fertilizer	
Organic Fertilizer	
Tackifier	

EROSION CONTROL (TYPE A) SEQUENCE AND APPLICATION RATE

Installation Sequence	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3		Step 4	Step 5	Step 6			
Bid Item	Compost	Mulch	Incorporate Materials		Drillseed	Straw	Hydromulch			
Materials	Compost	Mulch	Compost	Mulch	Seed	Straw	Fiber	Fertilizer	Tack	
Type	Fine	Shredded Bark	-	-	Type 3	Rice	Wood	Organic	Guar	
Application Rate	150 cy/ac	100 cy/ac	12" Depth		18 lbs/ac	2000 lbs/ac	600 lbs/ac	300 lbs/ac	70 lbs/ac	

New – On Plans

How is this accomplished? Location Change from SSPs to the Plans.

What does this look like? See above.

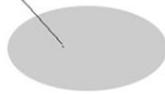
Application Rate and Sequence Tables move from the specs to the plans.

PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY IN ORDER OF APPLICATION.

Significant Changes:

Call out EC Type and Location on the plan (below) or in the "Q" Sheet.

Erosion Control Type 2
43,500 SF



EROSION CONTROL (TYPE 4) LOCATION

Sheet	Station	Acre
PP-1	"A" 226+90 to "A" 227+	20
PP-1	"A" 227+10 to "A" 228+	10
PP-2	"A" 229+90 to "A" 230+	5
PP-2	"B" 230+10 to "B" 231+	10
PP-3	"B" 231+20 to "A" 232+	6
PP-4	"C" 290+00 to "C" 295+	5
Total		56

HOW DO I CALL OUT THE MATERIALS AND SEQUENCE ON THE PLANS?

Here's Two Possible Ways:

As a Call-Out on the Plan Sheets or by Sheet numbers or Stations on the Quantity Plan Sheets

Other options are possible – Edit as you best see fit - However the work to be performed needs to be described.

No SSP or NSSP required.



Plain Language Rewrite

Planting & Irrigation



Significant Change: Payment

Currently:

Current Roadway Projects	2010 PLV Roadway Projects
Planting → Cost Breakdown w/Quantities	Individual Bid Items for Each Plant Size
Irrigation → Cost Breakdown w/Quantities	Individual Bid Item for Various Irrigation Components
Lump Sum Bid for Planting	Bid Item for Plant Establishment
Lump Sum Bid for Irrigation	
Individual Bid Item for Plant Establishment	

Lump Sum Payment for Planting and Irrigation become separate bid items.



Recap: 2010 Changes

- Redundant Language Removed
- Sections 1-15 Apply to ALL Projects
- Bid Item List Indicates the Work Involved
- Seed Tables Move to the Plans
- Materials and Sequence Move to the Plans
- Bid Items Replace Cost Breakdowns

Planting and Irrigation switches to bid items – no more cost breakdown.



Action Item Update:

How to find work and bid Caltrans projects

Another action item from last year's meeting was to solicit feedback on the 2010 specification development effort.



Caltrans Contractor Meeting

Break