Go-CA Task B1-E-1

"Provide Contractors more time for Estimating & Bidding"

Goal: Determine if current advertising schedules are adequate for competitive bidding. If not, what basis should be used for determining the schedules

- Current Practice
- Methodology Used
  - Telephone survey of other DOT practices
  - Internet survey of Contractors
- Summary of Surveys' results
  - State DOTs
  - Contractors
- PDAC feedback
- Next steps

Advertising Timeframes Since March 2001

Project Size	Current Advertising Period	Advertising Period Prior to 3/2001
<$1 million	3 or 4 weeks*	4 weeks
$1-5 million	4 weeks	5 weeks
$5-10 million	5 weeks	6 weeks
$10-15 million	5 weeks	7 weeks
$15-25 million	6 weeks	8 weeks
$25-50 million	7 weeks	9 weeks
>$50 million	8 weeks	10 weeks

* Simple projects with less than 20 items or plan sheets and safety projects costing less than $2.5 million and with 50 or less items are advertised for 3 weeks

Problem: **Current advertising timeframes do not adequately account for project complexity**

Survey of Other DOTs

- We wanted to know how other DOTs determine ad periods
  - Telephone survey by Awards Staff
  - 90% response
- Results
  - 14 states advertised 500 or more contracts
  - Most states don't meter the work
  - Most states don't periodically evaluate ad periods
    - Florida and Michigan are exceptions
  - Most large states advertise weekly
  - Some states publish preliminary plans - contractors like this
  - **Most states advertise for 4 weeks. Large/Complex jobs 6-8 weeks**
  - Most states did not think ad times had impact on bidding

Internet Survey of Contractors

- Web Survey active for 30 days
- AGC/EUCA/SCCA and Caltrans SBC notified
- Results
  - 57 contractors responded from 55 firms (Large, Medium & Small)
  - 77% say current ad times sufficient to prepare competitive bid
  - Ranking of Factors for Ad time determination
    - **Most Important Factor -Project Complexity**
    - Constraints (e.g. A+B)
    - $ Size
    - $ Bid Items
    - Type of Project
    - Least Important - Location and "Other"

Caltrans Project Delivery Advisory Council Feedback

- DES-OE proposed a simplified advertising schedule based on estimated project cost
- Feedback from PDAC members indicated proposal was not significantly different from existing schedule
- Proposal revised as follows:
  - Minimum advertising periods will be as follows:
  - Safety 010 contracts = three weeks (unless 50 or more items/plans)
  - Contracts with less than 50 items or plan sheets = four weeks
  - Contracts with 50 to 100 items or plan sheets = five weeks
  - Contracts with more than 100 items or plan sheets = seven weeks
  - DES-OE would increase advertising time as necessary to balance bid opening schedules, construction windows, etc.

Next Steps

- AGC/EUCA/SCCA/SBC input on proposal
- Circulate DD for approval
- Implement changes (**Go-CA Task B1-E-2) to advertising schedules**
- Completion target= December 2006