Director's Policy

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Responsible Program:	Sustainability

TITLE Sustainability Policy

POLICY

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) embraces and is committed to its role in improving the environment, the economy, and social equity for all Californians. Caltrans strives to improve Californians' quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Caltrans meets this commitment by applying sustainability principles in the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of California's integrated multimodal transportation system.

DEFINITIONS

Sustainability: Preserve or enhance California's people, planet, and prosperity to improve the quality of life by meeting the present generation needs without compromising future generation's ability to meet their own needs.

Caltrans fosters a sustainability culture committed to promoting the people, planet, and prosperity and to support California's sustainability goals. We apply sustainability principles by making efficient, risk-based, balanced decisions through the use of best practices. Sustainability principles include:

- People: Enhancing social equity for all Californians across present and future generations by using best practices that improve and support long-term community livability, health, safety, quality of life, mobility choice, accessibility to all modes of transportation and that create transportation corridors not only for conveyance of people, goods, and services, but also as livable public spaces.
- Planet: Protecting the environment and making practical transportation decisions that preserve or improve ecological health and resiliency while complying with legal mandates and reduce environmental impacts from the transportation system with emphasis on supporting statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prosperity: Enhancing California's economy involves management and public accountability of transportation asset investments and life-cycle costs to support statewide goals, provide integrated transportation services and promote economic vitality of local communities through a resilient and integrated transportation system.

- Partnerships: Fostering effective partnerships with governmental entities, the public, tribal governments, and stakeholders that are essential to statewide sustainability and to improve system integration with partners beyond transportation to achieve statewide goals.
- Innovation: Strategic innovation that adopts new technologies, practices, and research findings and continually evaluates and refines guidance, tools, policies, and processes essential to meet evolving sustainability challenges.

INTENDED RESULTS

California's statewide sustainability goals strive to benefit natural and built systems as well as individuals and communities across the state, the nation, and the world. Implementing sustainability principles leads to balanced use and conservation of resources over time, ensuring supplies are available for future prosperity of people and the planet. Borrowing from the future is unsustainable; sustainable actions taken today bestow sound social, environmental and economic conditions upon the next generations.

Long-term sustainability principles as an organizing framework guides Caltrans in decisions and business practices that support statewide sustainability goals including, but not limited to:

- Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006 (AB32) Global Warming Solutions Act and California's Climate Change Scoping Plan requiring statewide reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008 (SB 375) Communities and Climate Protection Act requiring sustainable community strategies to integrate land use and transportation planning in regional transportation plans.
- Chapter 585, Statutes of 2009 (SB 391) California Transportation Plan updates requiring the plan to address GHG emission reductions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% reduction of 1990 levels by 2050.
- Chapter 386, Statutes of 2013 (SB 743) California Environmental Quality Act guideline updates furthering the development of a multimodal transportation system to provide an alternative for evaluating transportation impacts to promote reductions in GHG emissions and diversity of land uses.

With these and other mandates and state policy, Caltrans develops and maintains our transportation system in a way that contributes to resiliency in the natural and built environments to improve the quality of life, provide access to necessities, and support a vibrant California.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Assistant Director for Sustainability:

- Serves as the focal point for monitoring Caltrans' actions related to sustainability.

- Represents Caltrans to external agencies on sustainability issues and convenes advisory groups, as needed.
- Establishes all sustainability policy and reviews Caltrans' communication, guidance, plans, practices, documents, training and reports to ensure sustainability principles are integrated.

Sustainability Program Manager:

- Develops and implements the Sustainability Program, implementation plan and processes for this directive with interdisciplinary teams from Districts, Division, Programs and partners.
- Provides guidance and direction to interdisciplinary teams on the development and updates of sustainability metrics, benchmarking and monitoring to meet the changing needs of society in California.
- Assists Divisions, Districts and Programs in developing and updating sustainability procedures, guidance documents, tools and training.

District Directors, Deputy District Directors and District Division Chiefs:

- Ensure collaboration with the Assistant Director for Sustainability and the Sustainability Program to implement sustainability guidance, policy, practices and communication and ensure that planning, project delivery, maintenance, operations and administration of activities that support a safe, sustainable, efficient and integrated transportation system for all of California.
- Incorporate sustainability principles when developing and implementing integrated multimodal transportation plans, programs, and projects, and use project performance to measure success, in project planning through post-construction.
- Enhance communications and partnership with stakeholders to achieve mutual sustainability goals that integrate with partners beyond transportation.

Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Division Chiefs and Program Managers:

- Ensure collaboration with the Assistant Director for Sustainability and the Sustainability Program to incorporate sustainability principles when developing and implementing guidance, policy, practices, plans, projects, services and communication an through responsible risk-based, balanced decision-making, conserving financial resources, and ensuring sustainable investment funding.
- Use project performance to measure success, including standardized measurement and evaluation of sustainability, in project planning through post-construction.
- Develop, improve, and administer transportation best practices that sustain California's environment by conserving and restoring ecosystems, improving air quality and public health, and conserving natural and built resources.

- Develop, improve, and administer transportation best practices that enhance social equity, livability, public health and safety, multimodal travel accessibility, and the retention and development of a diverse and highly skilled workforce.

Managers and Supervisors:

- Ensure that all employees are aware of and adhere to this policy.
- Empower employees to integrate sustainability into daily responsibilities.
- Set a positive example by practicing sustainability.

All Employees:

- Work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to make informed, responsible and sustainable transportation decisions.
- Seek innovative solutions while considering California's people, planet and prosperity, transportation needs, and statewide priorities.
- Integrate sustainability practices into daily activities.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all employees.

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Director

7-1-2015
Date Signed