CHAPTER 2I. GENERAL SERVICE SIGNS

Section 2I.01 Sizes of General Service Signs

Standard:

01 **Except as provided in Section 2A.11, the sizes of General Service signs that have a standardized design shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Support:

02 Section 2A.11 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns in Table 2I-1.

Option:

03 Signs larger than those shown in Table 2I-1 may be used (see Section 2A.11).

Section 2I.02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads

Support:

01 On conventional roads, commercial services such as ~~gas~~ fuel, food, and lodging generally are within sight and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover, General Service signing is usually not required in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement assistance, tourist information centers, and camping.

Option:

02 General Service signs (see Figure 2I-1 and 2I-1(CA)) may be used where such services are infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Standard:

03 **All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background.**

Guidance:

04 *General Service signs should be installed at a suitable distance in advance of the turn-off point or intersecting highway.*

05 *States that elect to provide General Service signing should establish a statewide policy or warrant for its use, and criteria for the availability of services. Local jurisdictions electing to use such signing should follow State policy for the sake of uniformity.*

Option:

06 Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.

Standard:

07 **General Service signs, if used at intersections, shall be accompanied by a directional message.**

Option:

08 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs with white arrows on blue backgrounds as shown in Figure 2I-1 may be used with General Service symbol signs to create a General Service Directional Assembly.

The NEXT RIGHT/LEFT (G58(CA)) Auxiliary sign may also be used in conjunction with the General Service signs.

09 The General Service sign legends may be either symbols or word messages.

Standard:

10 **Symbols and word message General Service legends shall not be intermixed on the same sign.** ~~**The Pharmacy (D9-20) sign shall only be used to indicate the availability of a pharmacy that is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and that is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system. The D9-20 sign shall have a 24 HR (D9-20aP) plaque mounted below it.**~~

Support:

11 Formats for displaying different combinations of these services are described in Section 2I.03.

Option:

12 If the distance to the next point at which services are available is 10 miles or more, a NEXT SERVICES XX MILES (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the General Service sign.

13 The International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign may be used beneath General Service signs where paved ramps and rest room facilities accessible to, and usable by, the physically handicapped are provided.

Guidance:

14 *When the D9-6 sign is used in accordance with Paragraph 13, and van-accessible parking is available at the facility, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (D9-6P) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) should be mounted below the D9-6 sign.*

Option:

15 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for the use of dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

16 The Litter Container (D9-4) sign may be placed in advance of roadside turnouts or rest areas, unless it distracts the driver's attention from other more important regulatory, warning, or directional signs.

17 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) symbol sign may be used to identify medical service facilities that have been included in the Emergency Medical Services system under a signing policy developed by the State and/ or local highway agency.

Standard:

18 **The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall not be used to identify services other than qualified hospitals, ambulance stations, and qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers. If used, the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall be supplemented by a sign identifying the type of service provided.**

Option:

19 The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may be used above the HOSPITAL (D9-13a) sign or Hospital (D9-2) symbol sign or above a sign with the legend AMBULANCE STATION (D9-13b), EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE (D9-13c), or TRAUMA CENTER (D9-13d). The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may also be used to supplement Telephone (D9-1), Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3), or POLICE (D9-14) signs.

Standard:

20 **The legend EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE shall not be used for services other than qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers.**

Guidance:

21 *Each State should develop guidelines for the implementation of the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign.*

22 *The State should consider the following guidelines in the preparation of its policy:*

A. AMBULANCE

1. 24-hour service, 7 days per week.
2. Staffed by two State-certified persons trained at least to the basic level.
3. Vehicular communications with a hospital emergency department.
4. Operator should have successfully completed an emergency-vehicle operator training course.

B. HOSPITAL

1. 24-hour service, 7 days per week.
2. Emergency department facilities with a physician (or emergency care nurse on duty within the emergency department with a physician on call) trained in emergency medical procedures on duty.
3. Licensed or approved for definitive medical care by an appropriate State authority.
4. Equipped for radio voice communications with ambulances and other hospitals.

C. Channel 9 Monitored

1. Provided by either professional or volunteer monitors.
2. Available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
3. The service should be endorsed, sponsored, or controlled by an appropriate government authority to guarantee the level of monitoring.

Section 2I.03 General Service Signs for Freeways and Expressways

Support:

01 General Service (D9-18 series) signs (see Figure 2I-3) are generally not appropriate at major interchanges (see definition in Section 2E.32) and in urban areas.

Standard:

02 **General Service signs shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background. Letter and numeral sizes shall comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. All approved symbols shall be permitted as alternatives to word messages, but symbols and word service messages shall not be intermixed. If the services are not visible from the ramp of a single-exit interchange, the service signing shall be repeated in smaller size at the intersection of the exit ramp and the crossroad. Such service signs shall use arrows to indicate the direction to the services.**

Option:

03 For numbered interchanges, the exit number may be incorporated within the sign legend (D9-18b) or displayed on an Exit Number (E1-5P) plaque (see Section 2E.31).

Guidance:

04 *Distance to services should be displayed on General Service signs where distances are more than ~~1~~ 0.5 mile.*

05 *General Service signing should only be provided at locations where the road user can return to the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.*

06 *Only services that fulfill the needs of the road user should be displayed on General Service signs. If State or local agencies elect to provide General Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:*

A. ~~Gas~~ Fuel, Diesel, LP ~~Gas~~ Fuel, EV Charging, and/or other alternative fuels if all of the following are available:
   1. Vehicle services such as ~~gas~~ fuel, oil, and water;
   2. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water;
   3. Continuous operations at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week; and
   4. Public telephone.

B. Food if all of the following are available:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Continuous operation to serve at least two meals per day, at least 6 days per week;
   3. Public telephone; and
   4. Modern sanitary facilities.

C. Lodging if all of the following are available:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Adequate sleeping accommodations;
   3. Public telephone; and
   4. Modern sanitary facilities.

D. Public Telephone if continuous operation, 7 days per week is available.

E. Hospital if continuous emergency care capability, with a physician on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week is available. A physician on duty would include the following criteria and should be signed in accordance with the priority as follows:
   1. Physician on duty within the emergency department;
   2. Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician in the hospital on call; or
   3. Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician on call from office or home.

~~*F. 24-Hour Pharmacy if a pharmacy is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system.*~~

G. Camping if all of the following are available:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Adequate parking accommodations; and
   3. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.

Standard:

07 **For any service that is operated on a seasonal basis only, the General Service signs shall be removed or covered during periods when the service is not available.**

08 ~~**The General Service signs shall be mounted in an effective location, between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign, in advance of the exit leading to the available services.**~~

Option:

The General Service signs may be located between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign, in advance of the exit leading to the available services.

Guidance:

09 *The General Service sign should contain the interchange number, if any, as shown in Figure 2I-3.*

Option:

10 If the distance to the next point where services are available is greater than 10 miles, a NEXT SERVICES XX MILES (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the ~~Exit Direction sign~~ Advance Guide sign.

The NEXT RIGHT/LEFT (G58(CA)) Auxiliary sign may also be used in conjunction with the General Service signs.

Standard:

11 **Signs for services shall comply with the format for General Service signs (see Section 2I.02) and as provided in this Manual. No more than six general road user services shall be displayed on one sign, which includes any appended supplemental signs or plaques. General Service signs shall carry the legends for one or more of the following services: Food, ~~Gas~~ Fuel, Lodging, Camping, Phone, Hospital, ~~24-Hour Pharmacy~~, or Tourist Information.**

12 **The qualified services available shall be displayed at specific locations on the sign.**

13 **To provide flexibility for the future when the service might become available, the sign space normally reserved for a given service symbol or word shall be left blank when that service is not present.**

Guidance:

14 *The standard display of word messages should be FOOD and PHONE in that order on the top line, and ~~GAS~~ FUEL and LODGING on the second line. If used, HOSPITAL and CAMPING should be on separate lines (see Figure 2I-3).*

Option:

15 Signing for DIESEL, LP-~~Gas~~ Fuel, or other alternative fuel services may be substituted for any of the general services or appended to such signs. The International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used for facilities that qualify.

Guidance:

16 *When symbols are used for the road user services, they should be displayed as follows:*

A. Six services:

1. Top row—~~GAS~~ FUEL, FOOD, and LODGING

2. Bottom row—PHONE, HOSPITAL, and CAMPING

B. Four services:

1. Top row—~~GAS~~ FUEL and FOOD

2. Bottom row—LODGING and PHONE

C. Three services:

1. Top row—~~GAS~~ FUEL, FOOD, and LODGING

Option:

17 Substitutions of other services for any of the services described in Paragraph 16 may be made by placing the substitution in the lower right (four or six services) or extreme right (three services) portion of the sign. An action message or an interchange number may be used for symbol signs in the same manner as they are used for word message signs. The Diesel Fuel (D9-11) symbol or the LP-~~Gas~~ Fuel (D9-15) symbol may be substituted for the symbol representing fuel or appended to such assemblies. The Tourist Information (D9-10) symbol ~~or the 24-Hour Pharmacy (D9-20 and D9-20aP) symbol~~ may be substituted on any of the configurations provided in Paragraph 16.

Guidance:

18 *At rural interchange areas where limited road user services are available and where it is unlikely that additional services will be provided within the near future, a supplemental plaque displaying one to three services (words or symbols) ~~may~~ should be appended below a post-mounted interchange guide sign.*

Standard:

19 **~~If more than three services become available at rural interchange areas where limited road user services were anticipated, the appended supplemental plaque described in Paragraph 18 shall be removed and replaced with an independently mounted General Service sign as described in this Section.~~**

If more than four services become available, any appended sign panel shall be removed and replaced with an independently mounted General Service sign as described in this Section.

Option:

20 A separate Telephone Service (D9-1) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be installed if telephone facilities are located adjacent to the route at places where public telephones would not normally be expected.

21 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

22 In some locations, signs may be used to indicate that services are not available.

23 A separate Truck Parking (D9-16) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be mounted below the other general road user services to direct truck drivers to designated parking areas.

Option:

General Service signs may be placed where appropriate, on freeways and expressways and for bypassed communities reasonably accessible from the highway.

Guidance:

General Service signs should be considered only when there is an easy route for the road user to return to the freeway from the service facility.

Support:

General Service signs are not normally used on conventional highways except in rural areas where the service facilities are not visible from the highway or where commercial services are infrequent and the road users may need the information to enable them to plan their stops. Service signing is intended to be a service to the road user and not to be advertising for individual businesses. When private advertising for a service is provided, there is no need to place General Service signs.

In urban areas, commercial services (such as fuel, food and lodging) are generally within sight and available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. However, they can be desirable or necessary where services are infrequent or in areas that are predominately residential or industrial where such services are not readily apparent. Also, if the visibility of the private advertising signs have impaired or eliminated either by sound-walls or other items constructed on State right-of-way, or by landscaping or other vegetation that cannot be trimmed or removed, the location can qualify for General Service signing.

Standard:

The following criteria shall apply to General Service signs:

1. **The business shall be with in 1,000 feet of the intersection.**
2. **Only Fuel, Food and Lodging symbol (G66(CA)) signs shall be used.**
3. **All other qualifying criteria for Fuel, Food and Lodging listed below shall be met.**
4. **New installations shall be mounted on existing sign supports.**

Support:

Except for the conditions stated above, General Service signing will not normally be provided in urban areas except for signs directing to a hospital and camping.

Standard:

General Service signs shall have a white retroreflective symbol or legend and border on a blue retroreflective background. Letter and numeral sizes shall conform to the minimum requirements of Table 2E-1(CA) through 2E-4(CA). Approved symbol signs shall be used in lieu of word messages, but symbol and word service message shall not be intermixed.

Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be placed by local jurisdictions before General Service signs are placed on the State highway.

Guidance:

Whenever possible, General Service signs should be placed below the ground mounted Advance Guide (G83(CA) Series) signs. No more than four symbols should be mounted beneath a single advance directional sign.

Option:

If there are no ground mounted Advance Guide (G83(CA) Series) signs available, the General Service signs may be placed as separate installations with a Directional Arrow Auxiliary (M6 Series) sign or NEXT RIGHT/LEFT (G58(CA)) plaque.

Guidance:

To avoid misleading the road user, those services that are more than 0.5 mile from the access point on the major route to the service, should have a distance plaque installed below the service sign.

Support:

Accordingly, it would be a disservice to the traveler to lead them off on to a minor road to a business providing a service when that same service can be obtained in a shorter distance by remaining on the major road.

Guidance:

General Service signing should only be provided at locations where the road user can return to the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.

Only services that fulfill the needs of the road user should be shown on General Service signs.

Standard:

Symbol signs shall be used for all new installations of the General Service signs and for all routine maintenance replacements.

Guidance:

The symbols should be placed below the first ground mounted Advance Guide (G83(CA) Series) sign.

Option:

Where it is not possible to place them below an existing guide sign, they may be used individually on conventional highways or at the terminus of exit ramps.

Guidance:

If placed separately, the NEXT RIGHT/LEFT (G58(CA)) auxiliary sign should be used with the symbol sign.

Fuel (Gasoline, Diesel and Alternative Fuels) Signs (D9-7, D9-11, G66-11(CA), G66-11A(CA), G66-22A(CA), G66-22B(CA), G66-22C(CA), G66-22D(CA), G66-22E(CA), G66-22F(CA), G66-22G(CA), G66-22H(CA), G66-22J(CA), G66-22K(CA) and G81-52(CA))

Standard:

1. **The maximum distance to a service station shall be 0.5 mile and have reasonably direct access from and return to the highway.**

Option:

2. Service may be signed to in bypassed communities, if the distance to the service is less than the distance to the next service on the through route.

Standard:

3. **Fuel, oil, compressed air, air gauge, radiator water, drinking water, telephone and restrooms shall be available during all service hours.**

Guidance:

4. *The station should be open at least 12 hours a day.*

Standard:

5. **Where gasoline is available, the Gas (D9-7) symbol sign shall be used.**
6. **Where gasoline and diesel is available, the Diesel Fuel (D9-11) symbol sign (with a superimposed "D") shall be used.**

Option:

7. The DIESEL (G66-12A(CA)) plaque may be used in addition to other appropriate service signs. Where neat (B100) Biodiesel (BD) fuel is available, the Biodiesel (G66-22C(CA)) symbol sign and BIODIESEL (G66-22D(CA)) supplemental plaque may be used in addition to the other appropriate signs.
8. Where liquefied petroleum gas is available; a LP GAS (G81-52(CA)) plaque may be used below either D9-7 or D9-11 sign.
9. Where methanol fuel is available, the Methanol Fuel (G66-11(CA)) symbol sign and METHANOL (G66-11A(CA)) plaque may be used in addition to other appropriate service signs.
10. The Compressed Natural Gas (G66-22A(CA)) sign may be used for Compressed Natural Gas Refueling Stations within 3 mile of a State highway and be available to the public at least 16 hours a day.
11. The Liquefied Natural Gas (G66-22B(CA)) sign may be used for Liquefied Natural Gas Refueling Stations within 3 mile of a State highway and be available to the public at least 16 hours a day.

12. Where ethanol E85 fuel is available, the Ethanol E85 (G66-22E(CA)) symbol sign and ETHANOL (G66-22F(CA)) supplemental plaque may be used in addition to the other appropriate signs.
13. Where hydrogen (H) fuel is available, the Hydrogen (G66-22G(CA)) symbol sign and HYDROGEN (G66-22H(CA)) supplemental plaque may be used in addition to the other appropriate signs.
14. Where only alternative fuels are available and gasoline and diesel fuels are not, the Alternative ALT (G66-22J(CA)) symbol sign (with superimposed "ALT") may be used with an Alternative Fuels (G66-22K(CA)) supplemental plaque mounted below.
15. Beneath the standard fuel symbol sign, per #5 or #6 above, or, the Alternative-ALT (G66-22J(CA)) symbol sign, the Alternative Fuels (G66-22K(CA)) supplemental plaque may list alternative fuels available with one fuel name or abbreviation per line. This supplemental plaque height may vary from 2 to 6 lines of text; and, may intentionally leave space(s) for an alternate fuel legend overlay(s) to be added at a future time.

Standard:

16. **Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be placed by local agencies before signs are placed on the State highway.**

Support:

The Department of Transportation may develop signs for future requests for alternative fuel signs, then share the signs with the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) in a subsequent meeting for informational purposes.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Signs (G66-21(CA))

Option:

The ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION (G66-21(CA)) sign may be used for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations within 3 mile of a State highway and be available to the public at least 16 hours a day.

Standard:

Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be placed by local agencies before signs are placed on the State highway.

Option:

The Distance with Arrow (G66-21A(CA)) plaque may be used to supplement the G66-21(CA) sign to provide distance and directional information to the motorist.

Food or Lodging Signs (D9-8 and D9-9)

Standard:

To qualify for food signs, single establishments shall be open to serve at least two meals a day. Both food and lodging establishments shall score at least 10 points in the following categories, including at least one point in Category 4, to qualify for signs.

1. **Maximum distance from the highway exit to the first service facility:**

0 – 1 mile	**3 Points**
1 – 2 mile	**2 Points**
2 – 5 mile	**1 Point**
More than 5 mile	**0 Points**

2. **Number of traffic control devices (signals or stop signs) between the exit and the facility:**

0 - 1 Devices	**3 Points**
2 – 3 Devices	**2 Points**
4 – 4 Devices	**1 Point**
More than 5	**0 Points**

3. **Number of seats available in food facilities:**

50 or more	**3 Points**
30 – 49	**2 Points**
15 – 29	**1 Point**
Less than 15	**0 Points**

4. Number of rooms available with private baths at lodging facilities:

30 or more	**3 Points**
10 – 30	**2 Points**
2 – 10	**1 Point**
Less than 2	**0 Points**

5. Distance to the next highway exit served by a food or lodging establishment:

15 mile or more	**3 Points**
7 – 15 mile	**2 Points**
3 – 7 mile	**1 Point**
3 mile or less	**0 Points**

Guidance:

6. *Judgment factors include comfort, appearance, scope of service provided, etc., should be scored 0 to 3 points by the inspecting official.*

Camping Signs (D9-3 and D9-3a)

Option:

The Camping (D9-3 and D9-3a) signs may be placed for campgrounds providing individual service and utility hookups for one-night stops for travel trailers, campers and other recreational vehicles.

Standard:

To qualify for Camping (D9-3 and D9-3a) signs, the facility shall meet all the following criteria:

1. **It shall be licensed for private operation or be operated by a governmental agency.**
2. **It shall be accessible to and capable of handling all types of recreational vehicles.**
3. **It shall be open to the public for 24 hours each day during the time the signs are in place.**
4. **It shall be no more than 10 mile from the highway exit designated by the sign.**
5. **It shall be equipped to handle a minimum of 25 travel trailers, campers, and other recreational vehicles for overnight stops, including individual service, utility hook-ups and individual sewer connections or a central sewer holding tank.**
6. **Follow-up signing shall be installed and maintained by local agencies where required for the logical direction of traffic.**

Hospital Sign (D9-2 and D9-13)

Option:

Hospitals, as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 70005 and licensed by the Department of Health Services, which provide 24 hour inpatient care, in urban and rural areas which are located in close proximity to a highway and provide specified medical services, may qualify for the Hospital (D9-2) symbol sign.

The D9-2 signs may be provided for hospitals in urban areas within 1 mile of a highway, accept emergency cases and have a medical doctor in attendance 24 hours a day.

The D9-2 signs may be provided for hospitals in rural areas within 3 mile of a highway, accept emergency cases and have a doctor on call 24 hours a day.

Exceptions to the distance requirement may be made in areas where hospitals are a great distance apart.

Telephone Signs (D9-1, D9-1a and D9-1b)

Option:

The Telephone (D9-1, D9-1a and D9-1b) signs are placed where a telephone is available 24 hours a day and is located in a remote area where it would not be expected.

STAA Truck Service and Terminal Access Signs (G66-55(CA) and G66-56(CA))

Option:

The STAA Truck Service (G66-55(CA)) and STAA Truck Terminal Access (G66-56(CA)) signs may be placed by the Department of Transportation on the National Network of Highways to identify locations where STAA trucks may leave the National Network to access services and terminals per CVC 35401.5(c) and (d). The G66-55(CA) and G66-56(CA) signs may also be used on Terminal Access routes to indicate turns and access ending points.

Support:

More information on the National Network and State Terminal Access routes is available from the Office of Truck Services in Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Operations. Some of this information can also be accessed on the Internet at the following web site:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/trucks/

STAA Definitions

Support:

- **STAA** - Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, federal funding authorization that declared, among other things;
  1. Semitrailers up to and including 48 feet in length are exempt from state kingpin to rear axle (KPRA) and overall combination length limits,
  2. Semitrailers over 48 feet long and up to and including 53 feet in length are exempt from state overall length limits. (These semitrailers are subject to state KPRA limits in California.),
  3. Double trailers in combination where each does not exceed 28.5 feet in length are exempt from any state overall length limits.
  4. Federal length rules apply to these combination vehicles only when operating on a federally declared system of highways called the National Network and the state and local determined terminal access and service access highways.

Note: Tour buses up to 45 feet long (motorcoaches) were added to the federal regulations under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Motorhomes (housecars) up to 45 feet in length were legalized in California in October 2001. Although highway restrictions apply to both these vehicle types, they may operate beyond the STAA Network. However, the Motorcoach and Motorhome Network map defines highway access restrictions imposed at the limits of turning performance (i.e., the 45 feet vehicles would need to cross centerlines).

- **National Network** – federally designated state highways for STAA vehicles as defined and listed in the Federal Code of Regulations, Title 23, Part 658 (23CFR658) and 658.23 Appendix A.
- **Terminal Access** – state and local agency highways designated for "reasonable access" to/from the National Network by STAA vehicles as provided for in the CVC 35401.5(c) and (d). All transitions (egress) from National Network to Terminal Access highways, critical decision points (all turns) and Terminal Access end points should be so designated with a G66-56(CA) sign.
- **STAA Network** – the California network of Terminal Access and National Network highways. A map and Truck Route List identifying the STAA Network (includes State highway system only, does not include local streets and roads) are available from Office of Truck Services in Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Operations.
- **Service Access (SA) –** state and local agency highways identified for service use by STAA vehicles. Service access is limited to 1 mile off the STAA network and must be "identified." Identification may include a map indicating service access for STAA vehicles, an approved list, or by G66-55(CA) signs.
- **STAA trucks** – are truck tractor-semitrailer combinations, or doubles with a long length configuration such that the vehicles may operate legally only on the STAA Network and SA routes.

STAA Truck Service (G66-55(CA)) Sign

Option:

The STAA Truck Service (G66-55(CA)) Sign may be placed on the STAA Network to identify locations where STAA trucks may exit the network to obtain services as provided for by CVC 35401.5(c) and (d).

Standard:

STAA trucks shall not exit the STAA Network to obtain services unless the G66-55(CA) sign indicates egress.

STAA Truck Service (G66-55(CA)) signs shall be provided as follows:

1. **Access – All the following requirements shall be met:**
   - **Fuel, food, lodging and/or repair facilities shall be located within 1 mile of the point of ingress and egress from the designated system.**
   - **Ramps, intersections and streets shall have adequate turning radii and lane widths to safely accommodate STAA trucks.**
   - **The service being made accessible shall have parking provisions for STAA trucks, or alternative parking within 1 mile shall be identified.**

2. **Facilities – Two of the four services - fuel, food, lodging & repair - shall be provided:**
   - **Fuel (Diesel) - Fuel is available at least 12 hours during the working day.**
   - **Food - Conforms to requirements for Food (D9-8) signs in this section.**
   - **Lodging - Conforms to requirements for Lodging (D9-9) signs in this section.**
   - **Repair Services - Oil, tire repair, engine and brake services are available.**
3. **Concurrence:**
   - **The proposal for G66-55(CA) signing has written concurrence by the local jurisdiction(s) having responsibility for maintenance of the roadways within 1 mile of ingress/egress.**
4. **Sign Placement:**
- **The G66-55(CA) sign on the STAA Network shall be displayed in advance of the ramp or intersection.**
- **Although no follow-up signing is required, trailblazer signs may be used where applicable.**

STAA Truck Terminal Access (G66-56(CA)) Sign

Option:

STAA Truck Terminal Access (G66-56(CA)) signs may be placed to identify Terminal Access routes leading from the National Network, as trailblazers and to indicate the end of a Terminal Access route. STAA trucks can exit the National Network onto Terminal Access routes only where indicated by a G66-56(CA) sign. (Note: In California, no signs indicate the National Network highways.) Highways may be designated Terminal Access only if the curves, ramps, and intersections meet the geometric criteria for STAA trucks, including adequate turning radii and lane width.

Standard:

STAA Truck Terminal Access (G66-56(CA)) signs shall be provided as follows:

1. **On State Highways:**
   - **State route segments under consideration for Terminal Access shall meet all geometric criteria for STAA trucks.**
   - **The end of any Terminal Access route segment shall be signed as such.**
   - **Trail-blazing signs shall be placed at decision points indicating direction(s) a STAA truck may proceed.**
   - **The G66-56(CA) sign shall be placed in advance of the ramp or intersection where a STAA truck may exit the designated system.**
2. **On Local Highways:**
   - **Signing of egress from a State Terminal Access route to a local Terminal Access route shall be done only if requested by the local jurisdiction and:**
     a) the local jurisdiction has informed the Department in writing that the local roads and intersections on the proposed local Terminal Access route meet all geometric criteria* for STAA trucks and,
     b) the State highway ramp or intersection meets all geometric criteria for STAA trucks.
     *** - The geometric criteria involves using a STAA vehicle to design the intersection or ramp so that the STAA vehicle can stay in its lane without encroaching into the adjacent or opposing lane.**
   - **If the route passes through more than one local jurisdiction, the city or county where the terminal is located shall acquire concurrence from all affected jurisdictions before requesting access from the STAA Network. Per CVC 35401.5(d)(1)(2) "The denial of a request for access to terminals and services shall be only on the basis of safety and an engineering analysis of the proposed access route. If a written request for access has been properly submitted and has not been acted upon within 90 days of receipt by the Department or the appropriate local agency, the access shall be deemed automatically approved."**
   - **Local agency shall place G66-56(CA) signs at every critical decision point on the Terminal Access route, including a G66-56(CA) sign with END Auxiliary (M4-6) sign.**
   - **The State shall place a G66-56(CA) sign on the State route in advance of the ramp or intersection to the local Terminal Access highway.**

Guidance:

- *Local agencies should furnish Terminal Access route information to the Office of Truck Services for web publication. Some examples are available on the following web site: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/trucks/truckmap/local-truck-routes.htm*

NEXT EXIT OK Sign (G66-56A(CA))

Option:

The NEXT EXIT OK (G66-56A(CA)) sign may be used below the appropriate G66-55(CA) or G66-56(CA) signs.

Law Enforcement Signs (G66-57(CA), G66-61(CA) and G66-62(CA))

Option:

The Highway Patrol (G66-57(CA)) signs may be placed for California Highway Patrol offices located within 1 mile of a highway.

The Sheriff (G66-61(CA)) sign may be placed for a sheriff office located within 1 mile of a highway.

The Police (G66-62(CA)) sign may be placed for a police station located within 1 mile of a highway.

Emergency Services Signs

Option:

Emergency Service signs, such as DRINKING WATER, RADIATOR WATER; etc. may be placed when appropriate.

Call Box Signs (SG25(CA), SG25A(CA) and SG41(CA))

Support:

The Call Box (SG25(CA)) sign is used to designate call boxes on the county SAFE (Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies) Call Box System. The special sign sizes are intended for use only on scenic highways, within designated coastal zones and National or State parks, to keep signing compatible with scenic values.

The call box identification number is established by using the route number to the left of the hyphen. The first two numbers to the right of the hyphen are the post mile numbers (or three numbers if applicable); the last number locates the call box within the post mile.

For northbound and eastbound routes, this number will be 2 for the call box in the first quarter mile; 4 for the call box between one quarter and one half mile; 6 for the call box between one half and three quarter mile; and 8 for the call box between three quarter and one mile, within a given post mile. 0 will be used for infills or for call boxes at the post mile.

For southbound and westbound routes, this number will be 3 for the call box in the first quarter mile; 5 for the call box between one quarter and one half mile; 7 for the call box between one half and three quarter mile; and 9 for the call box between three quarter and one mile, within a given post mile. 1 will be used for infills or for call boxes at the post mile.

Option:

- A letter code may precede the post mile (R for realignment, etc.).

Standard:

- **Call boxes located in the median shall be designated by the letter "M" following the post mile.**
- **Call boxes located on a transition or connector shall be designated by the letter "T" following the post mile.**
- **Call boxes located at a park and ride lot shall be designated by the letter "A" following the post mile.**
- **Call boxes located on a carpool lane shall be designated by the letter "P" following the post mile.**
- **Call boxes located on a split (i.e. Cypress) shall be designated by the letter "S" following the post mile.**

Option:

The Call Box Adoption Plaque (SG25A(CA)) may be used to inform motorists on highways, that have the SAFE Call Box System, that a particular call box location or segment of highway has been adopted by an individual, organization or company.

Standard:

When used, the SG25A(CA) sign shall be placed below the SG25(CA) sign.

Option:

The END CALL BOXES (SG41(CA)) sign may be used to inform motorists of the end of the SAFE Call Box System for a particular segment of highway.

CAL Fire Station Signs (SG38(CA) and SG39(CA))

Option:

The CAL FIRE STATION NEXT RIGHT (SG38(CA)) sign may be used on freeways in rural areas to give advance notice of an exit to a California Department of Forestry Fire Station which is within 0.5 mile of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year.

The CAL FIRE STATION with Arrow (SG39(CA)) sign may be used in rural areas on expressways, conventional highways and freeway ramp terminals in advance of the turn off to a California Department of Forestry Fire Station which is within 0.5 mile of the exit and is open 24 hours each day of the year.

Fire Hydrant Signs (S9(CA) and S10(CA))

The Fire Hydrant Street Name (S9(CA)) or Fire Hydrant with Distance and Arrow (S10(CA)) sign may be used to mark the location of off right-of-way fire hydrants adjacent to freeways. A public entity may place blue reflective pavement markers on a State highway after first obtaining an encroachment permit from Department of Transportation. Refer to Health and Safety Code Section 13060.In many locations the off right-of-way fire hydrants may be out of view from the freeway. Some fire districts may want to install the S9(CA) and S10(CA) signs to identify the hydrant. These S9(CA) and S10(CA) sign installations are optional and at the discretion of the Department of Transportation District Engineer.

Section 2I.04 Interstate Oasis Signing

Support:

01 An Interstate Oasis is a facility near an Interstate highway that provides products and services to the public, 24-hour access to public restrooms, and parking for automobiles and heavy trucks. Interstate Oasis guide signs inform road users on Interstate highways as to the presence of an Interstate Oasis at an interchange and which businesses have been designated by the State within which they are traveling as having met the eligibility criteria of the Federal Highway Administration's Interstate Oasis policy. The FHWA's policy, which is dated October 18, 2006, and which can be viewed on the MUTCD website at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-policy.htm, provides a more detailed definition of an Interstate Oasis and specifies the eligibility criteria for an Interstate Oasis designation in compliance with the requirements of laws enacted by Congress.

Guidance:

02 *If a State elects to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing (see Figure 2I-4), there should be a statewide policy, program, procedures, and criteria for the designation and signing of a facility as an Interstate Oasis that complies with FHWA's policy and with the provisions of this Section.*

03 *States electing to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing should use the following signing practices on the freeway for any given exit to identify the availability of a designated Interstate Oasis:*

A. *If adequate sign spacing allows, a separate Interstate Oasis (D5-12) sign should be installed in an effective location with spacing of at least 800 feet from other adjacent guide signs, including any Specific Service signs. This Interstate Oasis sign should be located upstream from the Advance Guide sign or between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign for the exit leading to the Interstate Oasis. The Interstate Oasis sign should have a white legend with a letter height of at least 10 inches and a white border on a blue background and should contain the words INTERSTATE OASIS and the exit number or, for an unnumbered interchange, an action message such as NEXT RIGHT. The names or logos of the businesses designated as Interstate Oases should not be included on this sign.*

B. *If the spacing of the other guide signs precludes the use of a separate sign as described in Item A, an INTERSTATE OASIS (D5-12P) supplemental plaque with a letter height of at least 10 inches and with a white legend and border on a blue background should be appended above or below an existing D9-18 series General Service sign for the interchange.*

04 *If a separate Interstate Oasis (D5-12) sign is installed, an Interstate Oasis sign panel should be incorporated into the design of the sign (see Figure 2I-4).*

Standard:

05 **The Interstate Oasis sign panel shall only be used on the separate Interstate Oasis sign where it is accompanied by the words INTERSTATE OASIS and shall not be used independently without the words.**

Option:

06 If Specific Service signing is provided at the interchange, a business designated as an Interstate Oasis and having a business logo sign panel on the Food and/or Gas Specific Service signs may use the bottom portion of the business logo sign panel to display the word OASIS.

Standard:

07 **If Specific Services signs containing the OASIS legend as a part of the business logo(s) are not used on the ramp and if the Interstate Oasis is not clearly visible and identifiable from the exit ramp, a sign with a white INTERSTATE OASIS legend with a letter height of at least 6 inches and a white border on a blue**

background shall be provided on the exit ramp to indicate the direction and distance to the Interstate Oasis.

08 **If needed, additional trailblazer guide signs shall be used along the crossroad to guide road users to an Interstate Oasis.**

Section 2I.05 Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs

Standard:

01 **Rest Area signs (see Figure 2I-5 and 2I-5(CA)) shall have a retroreflective white legend and border on a blue background.**

02 **Signs that include the legend REST AREA shall be used only where parking and restroom facilities are available.**

Guidance:

03 *A roadside area that does not contain restroom facilities should be signed to indicate the major road user service that is provided. For example, the sign legends for an area with only parking should use the words PARKING AREA instead of REST AREA. The sign legends for an area with only picnic tables and parking should use words such as PICNIC AREA, ROADSIDE TABLE, or ROADSIDE PARK instead of REST AREA.*

04 *Rest areas that have tourist information and welcome centers should be signed as discussed in Section 2I.08.*

05 *Scenic area signing should be consistent with that provided for rest areas, except that the legends should use words such as SCENIC AREA, SCENIC VIEW, or SCENIC OVERLOOK instead of REST AREA.*

06 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a conventional road, a D5-1 and/or D5-1b sign should be installed in advance of the rest area or other roadside area to permit the driver to reduce speed in preparation for leaving the highway. A D5-5 sign (or a D5-2 sign if an exit ramp is provided) should be installed at the turnoff point where the driver needs to leave the highway to access the rest area or other roadside area.*

07 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a freeway or expressway, a D5-1 sign should be placed 1 mile and/or 2 miles in advance of the rest area.*

Standard:

08 **A D5-2 sign shall be placed at the rest area or other roadside area exit gore.**

Option:

09 A D5-1b sign may be placed between the D5-1 sign and the exit gore on a freeway or expressway. A second D5-1 sign may be used in place of the D5-1b sign with a distance to the nearest 1/2 or 1/4 mile displayed as a fraction rather than a decimal for distances of less than 1 mile.

10 To provide the road user with information on the location of succeeding rest areas, a NEXT REST AREA XX MILES (D5-6) sign (see Figure 2I-5) may be installed independently or as a supplemental sign mounted below one of the REST AREA advance guide signs.

Standard:

11 **All signs on freeways and expressways for rest and other roadside areas shall have letter and numeral sizes that comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. The sizes for General Service signs that have standardized designs shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Option:

12 If the rest area has facilities for the physically impaired (see Section 2I.02), the International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be placed with or beneath the REST AREA advance guide sign.

13 If telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) are available at the rest area, the TDD (D9-21) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

14 If wireless Internet services are available at the rest area, the Wi-Fi (D9-22) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

The alternate message VISTA POINT may be used on D5-1 signs in advance of a vista point.

When several rest areas are provided (or planned) on the same route, generally within one hour's drive, a NEXT REST (X MILE) Plaque (G79A(CA)) may be placed below the REST AREA (X MILE) (D5-1) sign.

The PATROLLED BY HIGHWAY PATROL (G80B(CA)) sign may be used below the REST AREA (D5-2) sign where the California Highway Patrol has made an agreement with the Department of Transportation to patrol a specific rest area.

Support:

Until all of a planned series of roadside rests are constructed, it will be appropriate to sign to rest areas greater than one hour's drive ahead.

Guidance:

The REST AREA w/Arrow (D5-2b) sign should be placed, as a supplement to REST AREA (X MILE) (D5-1) sign, at the beginning of the deceleration lane leading to a roadside rest area. The sign should be used in lieu of an EXIT with Arrow (E5-1) sign at roadside rests.

Option:

The Opposite Sex Attendant (S19(CA)) sign may be used for the use of restroom facilities at Safety Roadside Rest Areas to indicate that it is permissible for a disabled person to be accompanied in the restroom by his or her attendant, who may be a person of the opposite sex, to assist the disabled person. Refer to Streets and Highways Code Section 223.5.

The Highway Patrol PARKING ONLY (S34(CA)) sign may be used in a Safety Roadside Rest Area to designate a parking stall(s) dedicated for California Highway Patrol Vehicles only. The S34(CA) sign may be supplemented with a "CHP" pavement marking.

Guidance:

When used, the pavement marking should be located so that it is visible when a vehicle is parked in the space.

Option:

The Rattlesnakes Caution (S26(CA)) sign may be used in locations such as vista points and rest areas where pedestrians are present and rattlesnakes have been known to inhabit the area.

The Rest Area/Vista point 8 Hour Parking (S23(CA)) sign may be used to discourage extended stays in roadside rests or vista points.

The NO SOLICITING (S24(CA)) sign may be used to prohibit the vending of merchandise, foodstuff, or services and the soliciting of money within any roadside rest areas or vista points. Refer to Streets and Highways Code 225.5. See Section 1A.11 for information regarding this publication.

The VENDING MACHINES (G81-63(CA)) sign may be placed below the REST AREA X MILE (D5-1) sign at those rest areas which provide vending machine services to the motorists on a 24 hour basis.

Guidance:

The G81-63(CA) sign should be installed similar to the General Service (G66(CA) Series) signs in Section 2D.45, below the D5-1 sign.

Option:

The REST AREA (X MILE) (D5-1) and REST AREA with Arrow (D5-2) signs may also be used with the message VISTA POINT, where appropriate.

Section 2I.06 Brake Check Area Signs (D5-13 and D5-14)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to check the brakes on their vehicle, a BRAKE CHECK AREA XX MILES (D5-13) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the brake check area, and a D5-14 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the brake check area.*

Support:

The Brake Check Area (G66-58(CA), G66-59(CA) and G66-60(CA)) signs (see Figure 2I-6(CA)) are provided to give notice to motorists, particularly truck operators, of an area provided to allow vehicle operators to stop and check the condition and adjustment of their brakes. These areas are generally provided just prior to a significant downgrade.

Section 2I.07 Chain-Up Area Signs (D5-15 and D5-16)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to pull off of the roadway to install chains on their tires, a CHAINUP AREA XX MILES (D5-15) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the chain-up area, and a D5-16 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the chain-up area.*

Section 2I.08 Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs

Support:

01 Tourist information and welcome centers have been constructed within rest areas on freeways and expressways and are operated by either a State or a private organization. Others have been located within close proximity to these facilities and operated by civic clubs, chambers of commerce, or private enterprise.

Guidance:

02 *An excessive number of supplemental sign panels should not be installed with Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs so as not to overload the road user.*

Standard:

03 **Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs (see Figure 2I-7 and 2I-7(CA)) shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Continuously staffed or unstaffed operation at least 8 hours per day, 7 days per week, shall be required.**

04 **If operated only on a seasonal basis, the Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs shall be removed or covered during the off seasons.**

Guidance:

05 *For freeway or expressway rest area locations that also serve as tourist information or welcome centers, the following signing criteria should be used:*

A. The locations for tourist information and welcome center Advance Guide, Exit Direction, and Exit Gore signs should meet the General Service signing requirements described in Section 2I.03.

B. If the signing for the tourist information or welcome center is to be accomplished in conjunction with the initial signing for the rest areas, the message on the Advance Guide (D5-7) sign should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER, XX MILES or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER XX MILES. On the Exit Direction (D5-8 or D5-11) sign the message should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT), or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT).

C. If the initial rest area Advance Guide and Exit Direction signing is in place, these signs should include, on supplemental signs, the legend TOURIST INFO CENTER or STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER.

D. The Exit Gore sign should contain only the legend REST AREA with the arrow and should not be supplemented with any legend pertaining to the tourist information center or welcome center.

Option:

06 An alternative to the supplemental TOURIST INFO CENTER legend is the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1), which may be appended beneath the REST AREA advance guide sign.

07 The name of the State or local jurisdiction may appear on the Advance Guide and Exit Direction tourist information/welcome center signs if the jurisdiction controls the operation of the tourist information or welcome center and the center meets the operating criteria set forth in this Manual and is consistent with State policies.

Guidance:

08 *For tourist information centers that are located off the freeway or expressway facility, additional signing criteria should be as follows:*

A. Each State should adopt a policy establishing the maximum distance that a tourist information center can be located from the interchange in order to be included on official signs.

B. The location of signing should be in accordance with requirements pertaining to General Service signing (see Section 2I.03).

C. Signing along the crossroad should be installed to guide the road user from the interchange to the tourist information center and back to the interchange.

Option:

09 As an alternative, the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be appended to the guide signs for the exit that provides access to the tourist information center. As a second alternative, the Tourist Information sign may be combined with General Service signing.

Tourist Information Signs (G81-21(CA) and G81-24(CA))

Option:

The TOURIST INFORMATION (G81-21(CA) and G81-24(CA)) signs may be placed directing to off-highway facilities.

Standard:

These signed facilities shall have a principal function of providing local tourist information. Those facilities provided by local chamber of commerce (or other official body) representing a group of people or businesses shall be giver initial priority for signing.

Guidance:

The G81-21(CA) or G81-24(CA) signs should be placed on State highways only where privately-owned off-highway signs would not reasonably provide adequate directions to motorists. These signs should be restricted to those facilities which are spaced no closer than 15 mile apart in each direction along any highway. An excessive number of supplemental panels should not be installed with Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs so as not to overload the road user.

Standard:

The TOURIST INFORMATION (G81-21(CA) and G81-24(CA)) signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.

Guidance:

These signs should be placed beneath another primary guide sign.

Option:

If no guide signs are available, the G81-21(CA) or G81-24(CA) signs may be placed as separate installations.

Guidance:

Facilities should be within 0.5 mile of the highway and have reasonably direct access from, and return to, the highway.

Facilities should provide lighting, telephone and information on a 24-hour basis and cover the entire area served. Information should include area and regional maps, and 24-hour service information including, but not limited to medical, police, fire, restrooms, auto repair service and fuel. Outside maps and displays must be provided at all manned centers for use during periods when the facility is not manned.

Facilities should have adequate on premise and off right-of-way signing, where necessary, denoting "Tourist Information". Displays should be professionally designed and constructed and provide resistance to fading, chipping and vandalism.

Standard:

If operated only on a seasonal basis, where criteria cannot be met during closed periods, these signs shall be covered or removed.

Guidance:

For freeway or expressway rest area locations that also serve as tourist information centers, the following signing criteria should be used:

A. The locations for the Advance Guide (G83(CA) Series), Exit Direction (G85(CA) Series), and Exit Gore (E5-1) signs should meet the General Service signing requirements.

B. The TOURIST INFORMATION (G81-21(CA) and G81-24(CA)) signs should be placed beneath the REST AREA (D5-2) sign or other primary guide sign. If no guide signs are available, they may be placed as a separate installation.

C. The gore sign should contain only the legend REST AREA with the arrow and should not be supplemented with any legend pertaining to the tourist information.

Option:

As an alternative, the Information Symbol (D9-10) sign may be appended to the guide signs for the exit providing access to the tourist information center. As a second alternative, the D9-10 sign may be combined with General Service signing.

California Welcome Center Signs (SG47(CA) Series)

Option:

The CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER (SG47(CA) Series) signs may be placed directing to a statewide network of visitor information centers as designated by the California Office of Tourism to encourage tourism in California and provide benefits to the State economy.

Standard:

The facilities signed shall have a principal function of providing statewide tourist information. Centers that can be so designated shall include, but not be limited to, centers operated by convention centers and visitor bureaus, chambers of commerce, federal, state or local governments, or private entities.

Designation of an entity as a California Welcome Center shall be based on conditions established by the Office of Tourism through written agreement with the entity.

The SG47(CA) Series signs shall have a yellow welcome center logo, and a white legend and border on a blue background.

Guidance:

The SG47(CA) Series signs should be placed as separate installations with the individual welcome centers being charged directly for the initial and ongoing cost and fees related production, maintenance and permitting of the signs.

Facilities should be within 3 mile in urban areas and 5 mile of a State highway and have reasonably direct access from, and return to, the highway.

Standard:

Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be placed by local jurisdictions before these signs are place on the State highway.

If operated only on a seasonal basis, where criteria cannot be met during closed periods, signs shall be covered or removed as directed by the Office of Tourism.

Option:

The CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER X MILES (SG47A(CA)) sign may be placed on the nearest freeway approximately 2 mile, or more as appropriate, in advance of the exit to a California Welcome Center that has been established under the authority of the California Office of Tourism.

The CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER NEXT RIGHT (SG47B(CA)) sign may be placed on the nearest freeway, at the appropriate exit to a California Welcome Center that has been established under the authority of the California Office of Tourism.

The CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER with Arrow (SG47C(CA)) sign may be placed at a freeway ramp terminal, conventional highway or local road to provide direction to a California Welcome Center that has been established under the authority of the California Office of Tourism.

The CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER X MILES with Arrow (SG47D(CA)) sign may be placed at a freeway ramp terminal to provide direction and distance to a California Welcome Center that has been established under the authority of the California Office of Tourism.

Guidance:

The distance on the SG47D(CA) sign should be no more than 3 mile from the State highway.

Support:

The Welcome Center will be charged directly for the initial and ongoing cost and fees related to production, maintenance and permitting of the SG47A(CA), SG47B(CA), SG47C(CA) and SG47D(CA) signs.

Section 2I.09 Radio Information Signing

Option:

01 Radio-Weather Information (D12-1) signs (see Figure 2I-8) may be used in areas where difficult driving conditions commonly result from weather systems. Radio-Traffic Information signs may be used in conjunction with traffic management systems.

Standard:

02 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Only the numerical indication of the radio frequency shall be used to identify a station broadcasting travel-related weather or traffic information. No more than three frequencies shall be displayed on each sign. Only radio stations whose signal will be of value to the road user and who agree to broadcast either of the following two items shall be identified on Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic**

Information signs:

A. Periodic weather warnings at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes during periods of adverse weather; or

B. Driving condition information (affecting the roadway being traveled) at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes, or when required, during periods of adverse traffic conditions, and when supplied by an official agency having jurisdiction.

03 **If a station to be considered operates only on a seasonal basis, its signs shall be removed or covered during the off season.**

Guidance:

04 *The radio station should have a signal strength to adequately broadcast 70 miles along the route. Signs should be spaced as needed for each direction of travel at distances determined by an engineering study. The stations to be included on the signs should be selected in cooperation with the association(s) representing major broadcasting stations in the area to provide: (1) maximum coverage to all road users on both AM and FM frequencies; and (2) consideration of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week broadcast capability.*

Option:

05 In roadway rest area locations, a smaller sign using a greater number of radio frequencies, but of the same general design, may be used.

Standard:

06 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs installed in rest areas shall be positioned such that they are not visible from the main roadway.**

Option:

07 A Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be installed as needed. Official public agencies or their designees may be displayed as the monitoring agency on the sign.

Standard:

08 **Only official public agencies or their designee shall be displayed as the monitoring agency on the Channel 9 Monitored sign.**

There are three types of radio information signs:

1. Radio – Weather Information (D12-1)
2. Radio – Traffic Information (D12-1)
3. Radio – Recreational Information (G81-65(CA))

Standard:

Stations shall broadcast on AM or FM frequencies licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for traveler information stations.

Radio – Weather Information (D12-1)

Option:

The D12-1 sign with alternate "Weather" message may be used on rural highways where weather conditions result in driving conditions less than optimum or to inform motorists of road or traffic conditions for highways and public inter-modal transportation facilities.

The criteria for D12-1 sign is as follows:

Standard:

1 **Only the numerical indication of the radio frequency shall be used to identify the broadcasting stations.**

2 **If a station to be considered operates only on a seasonal basis, its signs shall be removed or covered during the off-season.**

Guidance:

3 *The radio stations should have signal strength to adequately serve 70 mile along the roadway.*

4 *Signs should be spaced according to need, but ordinarily not closer than 30 mile apart for each direction of travel.*

5 *Only radio stations whose signal will be of value to the traveler and who agree to carry the two items below should be identified on this sign:*

a. *Periodic weather warnings at no more than 15-minute intervals during periods of adverse weather.*

b. *Road condition information affecting the roadway being traveled, broadcasted once every half-hour when required, to be supplied by an official agency having jurisdiction.*

6 The stations to be included on the signs should be selected in cooperation with the association(s) representing major broadcasting stations in the area to provide:

a. Maximum coverage to all motorists on both AM and FM frequencies, and

b. Consideration of 24 hours a day, 7 days a week broadcast capabilities.

Option:

7 A maximum of three frequencies may be shown on each sign.

8 A particular radio frequency may be shown a maximum of twice in one direction along the mainline.

The WHEN FLASHING (G81-64A(CA)) sign may be used with the D12-1 sign when messages are not broadcast full time and to accommodate "real-time" usage.

Guidance:

The G81-64A(CA) sign should be placed with flashing yellow beacons, above and on the same posts with the D12-1 sign.

Radio – Traffic Information (D12-1)

Option:

The D12-1 sign with alternate "Traffic" message may be used to inform motorists of broadcasts about traffic conditions for highways and public inter-modal transportation facilities.

Standard:

The radio station shall be operated by the public agency having jurisdiction over the transportation facility. The agency operating the station shall be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the system and changing the message content as situations warrant.

Radio – Recreation Information (G81-65(CA))

Option:

The G81-65(CA) sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be used on rural highways to inform travelers of broadcasts about State or federal parks and recreational facilities.

Standard:

The G81-65(CA) sign shall have a white legend and border on a brown background. The sign and sign structure shall be free of extraneous messages or logos, and must stand alone with no external lights or flashing beacons. Only the numerical indication of the radio frequency shall be used to identify a station. No more than three frequencies shall be shown on each sign. Only radio stations whose signal will be of value to the road user and who agree to broadcast in accordance with the items below shall be identified on this sign:

1. **Provides information about State or federal recreational facilities located in rural areas.**
2. **Message content is devoted to public highway purposes.**
3. **Broadcasts operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week.**
4. **Broadcasts contain no commercial messages.**

For installation of G81-65(CA) sign on State highways, the sign shall be installed by the permittee through the Department of Transportation's encroachment permit process. The costs, conditions of operation, and specific message content shall be clearly specified in the encroachment permit subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. **The permittee is the State or federal agency that owns and/or operates the recreational facility.**
2. **The permittee possesses a valid FCC license to operate the radio station as a traveler information station.**
3. **The permittee is responsible for the accuracy of the message and message content.**
4. **The permittee bears all costs, including but not limited to, FCC approval and licensing; fabrication and installation of signs; and the installation, operation and maintenance of appurtenant radio equipment and facilities.**

Option:

09 An Emergency CALL XX (D12-4) sign (see Figure 2I-8), along with the appropriate number to call, may be used for cellular phone communications.

EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1 (G81-61(CA) and G81-62(CA)) Signs

Option:

The EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1 (G81-61(CA)) sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be placed below all new Unincorporated Community (G9-2(CA)), City Limit (G9-5(CA)) and County Line (G10(CA)) signs. The G81-61(CA) may also be placed below

the existing G9-2(CA), G9-5(CA) and G10(CA) signs when they are changed for other purposes, such as updating population figures. The G81-61(CA) sign panel may be shorter than the G9-2(CA), G9-5(CA) and G10(CA) sign panel under which it is placed.

Guidance:

The G81-61(CA) sign panel should not be longer than the G9-2(CA), G9-5(CA) and G10(CA) sign panel under which it is placed.

Standard:

The letter size used in the G81-61(CA) sign shall not exceed that of the words "City Limit" on the G9-5(CA) sign or the words "County Line" on the G10(CA) sign.

Option:

The EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1 (G81-62(CA)) sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be installed on all State highways at state entry points.

Guidance:

The G81-62(CA) sign should be installed as a separate installation in an appropriate location following the Welcome To California (G10B(CA)) sign.

Option:

The G81-62(CA) sign (particularly the smaller version) may be used in place of the G81-61(CA) sign in installations requiring a shorter sign panel.

REPORT DRUNK DRIVERS CALL 911 (G81-66(CA)) Sign

Option:

The REPORT DRUNK DRIVERS CALL 911 (G81-66(CA)) Sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be installed on the roadway for safety enhancement.

Section 2I.10 TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 Signs (D12-5 and D12-5a)

Option:

01 A TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 (D12-5 or SG49A(CA)) sign (see Figure 2I-8 and 2I-8(CA)) may be installed if a 511 travel information services telephone number is available to road users for obtaining traffic, public transportation, weather, construction, or road condition information.

02 The pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program that is providing the travel information may be incorporated within the D12-5 sign either above or below the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 legend.

Standard:

03 **The logo of a commercial entity shall not be incorporated within the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 sign.**

04 **The TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 sign shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

Guidance:

05 *If the pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program is used, the pictograph's maximum height should not exceed two times the letter height used in the legend of the sign.*

Section 2I.11 Carpool and Ridesharing Signing

Option:

01 In areas having carpool matching services, Carpool Information (D12-2) signs (see Figure 2I-8) may be provided adjacent to highways with preferential lanes or along any other highway.

02 Carpool Information signs may include an Internet domain name or telephone number of more than four characters within the legend.

Guidance:

03 *Because this is an information sign related to road user services, the Carpool Information sign should have a white legend and border on a blue background.*

Standard:

04 **If a local transit pictograph or carpool symbol is incorporated into the Carpool Information sign, the maximum vertical dimension of the logo or symbol shall not exceed 18 inches.**

Option:

The Carpool Information (SG19(CA)) sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be placed at selected locations for incoming traffic in urban areas.

The Park & Ride Facility/Carpool Information (SG20(CA)) sign (see Figure 2I-8(CA)) may be used to identify park and ride facilities provided for the use of car-poolers and transit users.

Guidance:

For freeways and expressways, the SG19(CA) sign locations should be no closer than 10 mile apart.

Figure 2I-1. General Service Signs and Plaques

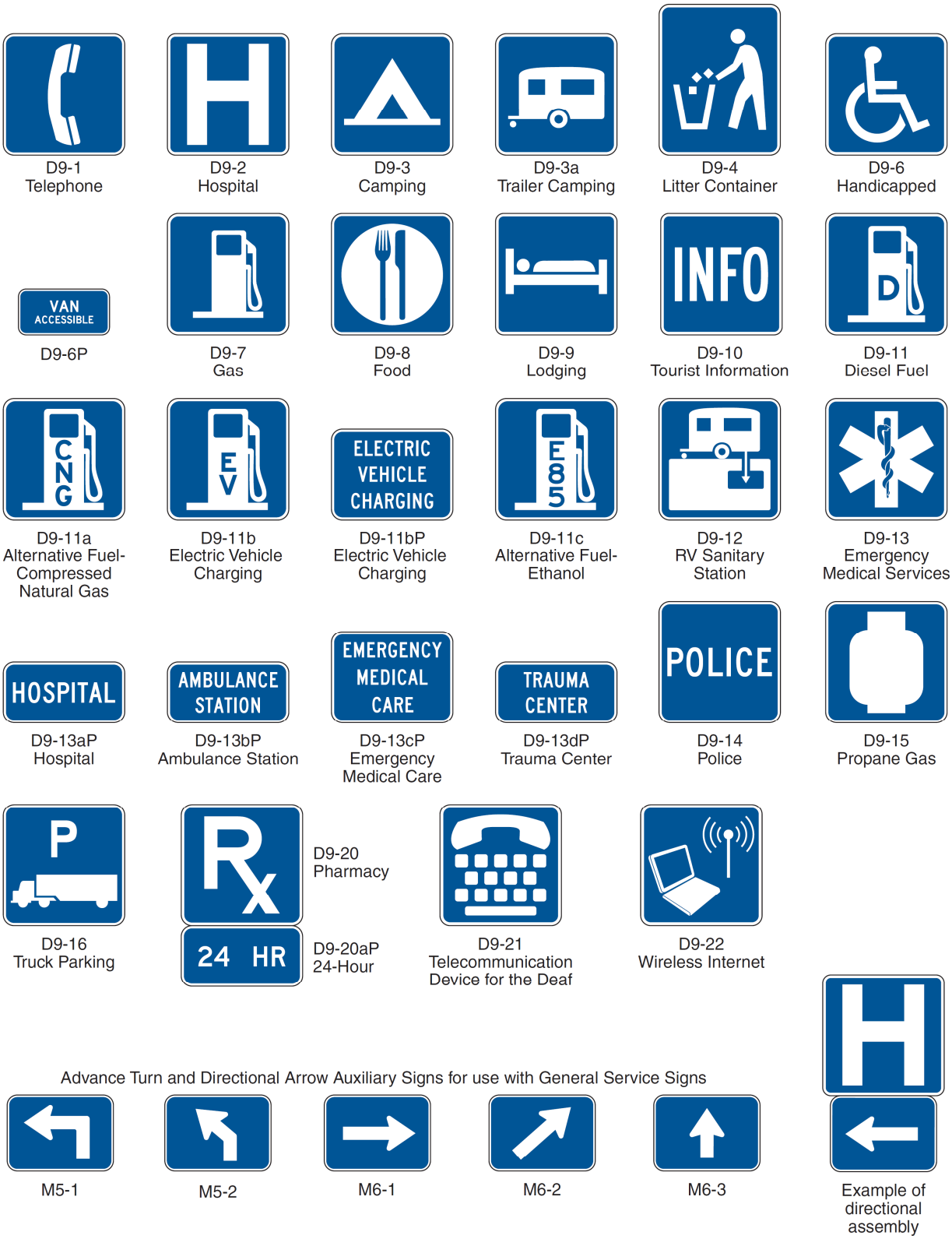


Figure 2I-1 (CA). General Service Signs and Plaques

G58 (CA)

G66-11 (CA)

G66-11A (CA)
G66-12A (CA)

G66-21 (CA)

G66-21A (CA)

G66-22A (CA)

G66-22B (CA)

G66-22C (CA)
G66-22D (CA)

G66-22E (CA)
G66-22F (CA)

G66-22G (CA)
G66-22H (CA)

G66-22J (CA)
G66-22K (CA)

G66-55 (CA)

G66-56 (CA)

G66-56A (CA)

G66-57 (CA)

G66-61 (CA)

G66-62 (CA)

G81-52 (CA)

SG38 (CA)

SG39 (CA)

S9 (CA)

S10 (CA)

Figure 2I-2. Example of Next Services Plaque

D9-17P

Figure 2I-3. Examples of General Service Signs with and without Exit Numbering

E1-5P

D9-18

E1-5P

D9-18a

D9-18b

OR

D9-18b

D9-18c

OR

D9-18c

Figure 2I-4. Examples of Interstate Oasis Signs and Plaques

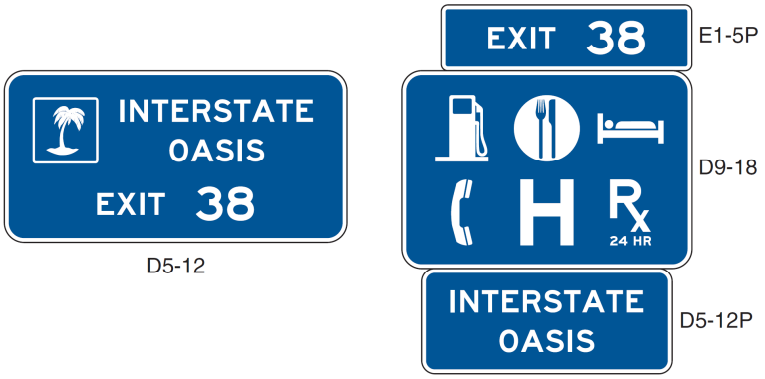
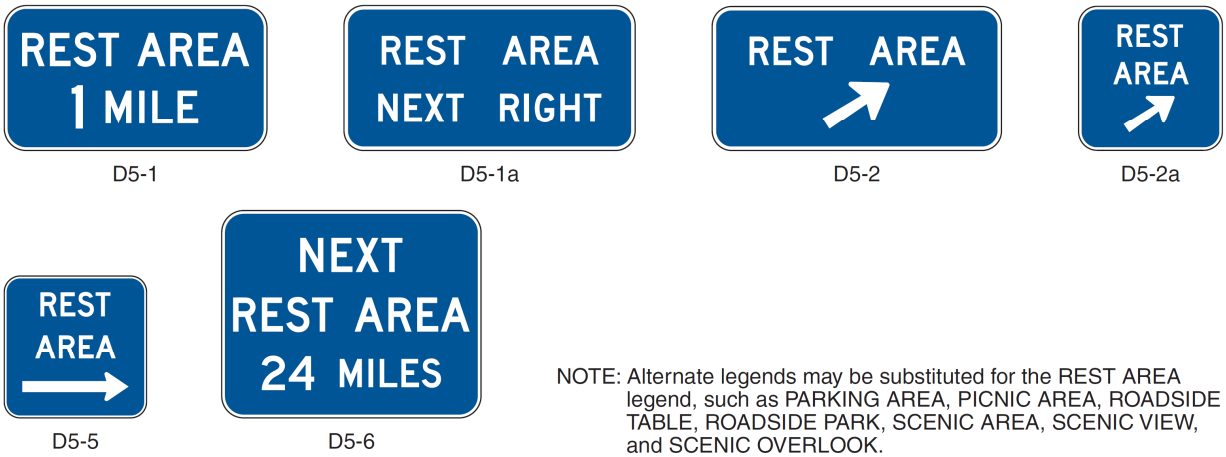


Figure 2I-5. Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs



NOTE: Alternate legends may be substituted for the REST AREA legend, such as PARKING AREA, PICNIC AREA, ROADSIDE TABLE, ROADSIDE PARK, SCENIC AREA, SCENIC VIEW, and SCENIC OVERLOOK.

Figure 2I-5 (CA). Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs

Figure 2I-6. Brake Check Area and Chain-Up Area Signs

D5-13 D5-14 D5-15 D5-16

Figure 2I-6 (CA). Brake Check Area and Chain-Up Area Signs

G66-58 (CA) G66-59 (CA) G66-60 (CA)

Figure 2I-7. Examples of Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs

D5-7 D5-8 D5-11

Note: Alternate legends may be substituted for the TOURIST INFO CENTER legend, such as WELCOME CENTER and (State Name) WELCOME CENTER.

Figure 2I-7 (CA). Examples of Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs

G81-21 (CA)

G81-24 (CA)

SG47A (CA)

SG47B (CA)

SG47C (CA)

SG47D (CA)

Figure 2I-8. Radio, Telephone, and Carpool Information Signs

D12-1

D12-2

D12-3

D12-4

* The pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program may be used in place of the 511 pictograph (see Section 2I.08)

D12-5*

D12-5a

Figure 2I-8 (CA). Radio, Telephone, and Carpool Information Signs

G81-61 (CA)

G81-62 (CA)

G81-64A (CA)

G81-65 (CA)

G81-66 (CA)

SG19 (CA)

SG20 (CA)

SG25 (CA)

SG25A (CA)

SG41 (CA)

SG49A (CA)

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 1 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Rest Area XX Miles	D5-1	2I.05	66 x 36*	96 x 54*
Rest Area Next Right	D5-1a	2I.05	78 x 36*	120 x 60* (F) 114 x 48* (E)
Rest Area (with arrow)	D5-2	2I.05	66 x 36*	96 x 54*
Rest Area Gore	D5-2a	2I.05	42 x 48*	78 x 78* (F) 66 x 72* (E)
Rest Area (with horizontal arrow)	D5-5	2I.05	42 x 48*	—
Next Rest Area XX Miles	D5-6	2I.05	60 x 48*	90 x 72*
Rest Area Tourist Info Center XX Miles	D5-7	2I.08	90 x 72*	114 x 102* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center (with arrow)	D5-8	2I.08	84 x 72*	120 x 102* (F) 120 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center Next Right	D5-11	2I.08	90 x 72*	144 x 102* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Interstate Oasis	D5-12	2I.04	—	156 x 78
Interstate Oasis (plaque)	D5-12P	2I.04	—	114 x 48
Brake Check Area XX Miles	D5-13	2I.06	84 x 48	126 x 72
Brake Check Area (with arrow)	D5-14	2I.06	78 x 60	96 x 72
Chain-Up Area XX Miles	D5-15	2I.07	66 x 48	96 x 72
Chain-Up Area (with arrow)	D5-16	2I.07	72 x 54	96 x 66
Telephone	D9-1	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Hospital	D9-2	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Camping	D9-3	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Trailer Camping	D9-3a	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Litter Container	D9-4	2I.02	24 x 30	36 x 48
Handicapped	D9-6	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Van Accessible (plaque)	D9-6P	2I.02	18 x 9	—
Gas	D9-7	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Food	D9-8	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Lodging	D9-9	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Tourist Information	D9-10	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Diesel Fuel	D9-11	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Alternative Fuel - Compressed Natural Gas	D9-11a	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Electric Vehicle Charging	D9-11b	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Electric Vehicle Charging (plaque)	D9-11bP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Alternative Fuel - Ethanol	D9-11c	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
RV Sanitary Station	D9-12	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Emergency Medical Services	D9-13	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 2 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Hospital (plaque)	D9-13aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Ambulance Station (plaque)	D9-13bP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Emergency Medical Care (plaque)	D9-13cP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Trauma Center (plaque)	D9-13dP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Police	D9-14	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Propane Gas	D9-15	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Truck Parking	D9-16	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Next Services XX Miles (plaque)	D9-17P	2I.02	102 x 24	156 x 30
General Services (up to 6 symbols)	D9-18	2I.03	—	96 x 60
General Services	D9-18a	2I.03	—	96 x 60
General Services (up to 6 symbols) with Action or Exit Information	D9-18b	2I.03	108 x 84	132 x 114 (F) 132 x 108 (E)
General Services with Action or Exit Information	D9-18c	2I.03	72 x 60**	132 x 108** (F) 108 x 84** (E)
Pharmacy	D9-20	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
24-Hour (plaque)	D9-20aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf	D9-21	2I.05	24 x 24	30 x 30
Wireless Internet	D9-22	2I.05	24 x 24	30 x 30
Weather Information	D12-1	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x 84
Carpool Information	D12-2	2I.11	60 x 42	96 x 66
Channel 9 Monitored	D12-3	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x 84
Emergency Call 911	D12-4	2I.09	66 x 30	96 x 48
Travel Info Call 511 (pictograph)	D12-5	2I.10	42 x 60	66 x 78
Travel Info Call 511	D12-5a	2I.10	48 x 36	66 x 48

* The size shown is for a sign with a REST AREA and/or TOURIST INFO CENTER legend. The size should be appropriately adjusted if an alternate legend is used.
** The size shown is for a sign with four lines of services. The size should be appropriately adjusted depending on the amount of legend displayed.

Notes:
1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate
2. Dimensions in inches are shown as width x height
3. Where two sizes are shown, the larger size is for freeways (F) and the smaller size is for expressways (E)