U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

November 21, 2001

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
Document #: S37326

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
For Brent Felker, Chief Engineer

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL SITE QUALITY TEAM FINAL REPORT CONCURRENCE

We have reviewed the Disposal Site Quality Team Final Report and your November 5, 2001, letter requesting The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) concurrence with the Disposal Site Quality Team Final Report. We concur with the findings of the report and are enclosing the original transmittal letter signed by the FHWA California Division Administrator for your files.

We have noted that Section 5A of the Final Report, "Implementation with FHWA," does not reflect the most current information available. The FHWA's legal counsel has now completed its review and has determined that the recommendations in the report do not violate existing FHWA policy. Also, the FHWA California Division Administrator and Assistant Division Administrator have met with California Department of Transportation management regarding the acceptance and implementation of the proposal, and are in agreement on its implementation.

Rather than revising the report to reflect this current information, we recommend that this letter be included as an addendum to the Disposal Site Quality Team Final Report. Please include copies of this letter with the reports when they are distributed.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you need further assistance, please call David Nicol, Assistant Division Administrator, at (916) 498-5015 or e-mail "David.Nicol @fhwa.dot.gov."

Sincerely,

Michael G. Ritchie
Division Administrator

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Flex your power!
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November 5, 2001

Mr. Michael Ritchie
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration – California Division
980 9th Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814-2724

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Subject: Disposal Site Quality Team Final Report

I am pleased to present you with the final report of the Disposal Site Quality Team. The Disposal Site Quality Team was formed to identify and resolve the issues and concerns associated with identification and use of disposal, borrow, and staging areas used for Caltrans construction projects. The mission statement for the team was:

"To effect project delivery process changes which allow use of borrow, disposal, and staging areas during construction in a manner that facilitates permitting and environmental compliance, is cost effective, and avoids project delays."

The Team, which included the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), dedicated many hours of work over the past year. This report represents a sound solution to a complex issue. Implementation of the recommendations will enhance resource agency relations, decrease costs, and improve delivery of FHWA funded projects.

Successful implementation of the Team's recommendations is highly dependent on your concurrence. To that end, the report incorporates comments from your staff, including the California Division, Chief Legal Counsel. With your concurrence below, we will move forward with implementation of the plan.

I want to thank you and your staff for supporting and participating in such a tremendous effort. We look forward to the cost savings and resulting improvements in our project delivery process.

Sincerely,

BRENT FELKER
Chief Engineer

Concurrence

MICHAEL RITCHIE
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration - California Division

11/21/01
Date