DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

May 20, 2004

Gene Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Matthew Schmitz, Safety/Traffic Engineer

Dear Mr. Fong,

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Vehicle Code Section 21400 and the recommendation of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC), the California Department of Transportation (Department) hereby adopts the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2003 Edition as amended by the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement, to prescribe uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices in California. The MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement supersede and replace the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual, as amended, and all previous editions thereof.

The adoption of the MUTCD 2003 and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement will lead to greater uniformity of traffic control devices in California with nationwide practices. This increased uniformity promotes improved transportation safety and efficiency for both California residents and visitors, alike.

A brief summary of the MUTCD adoption and development of the California Supplement process is attached.

Over the next few weeks the Department and FHWA jointly plan to hold statewide training to identify the key changes necessitated by the adoption of the MUTCD. The target audience for this training will be the Department, the Public Utilities Commission, Cities, Counties, and other public and private transportation professionals. Presentations and schedules for this training will be posted on the California Supplement web site.

We appreciate the strong support and continuous involvement provided by your office in this effort. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Matthew Schmitz, FHWA's Safety/Traffic Engineer, who has been involved with the Department throughout this process and has provided valuable input while bringing a national perspective.

The Department hereby requests FHWA's approval of the attached MUTCD 2003 California Supplement. The California Supplement is posted on the Internet at the following web site: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/mutcdsupp/. For ease of use, the California Supplement follows the overall MUTCD format.

If you have any questions regarding the Department's efforts to increase uniformity for traffic control devices with nationwide practices, by adopting the MUTCD and the California Supplement, please contact Mr. Johnny Bhullar of my staff at (916) 654-7312 or via e-mail at johnny_bhullar@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

KARLA SUTLIFF
Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Attachment: California's MUTCD Adoption – A Brief Summary
MUTCD 2003 California Supplement (On a CD in pdf format).

cc: Devinder Singh, Secretary, CTCDC.
Johnny Bhullar, HQ Traffic Operations