DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
1120 N STREET
P. O. BOX 942874
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
PHONE (916) 654-2352
FAX (916) 653-6080
TTY (916) 653-4086

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September 26, 2006

Mr. 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 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Revision 1, as amended for use in California), also called the California MUTCD, to prescribe uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices in California.

This combined document, the California MUTCD incorporates FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Revision 1 dated November 20, 2004, and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement dated May 20, 2004. It also incorporates all policies on traffic control devices issued by the California Department of Transportation that have been issued since May 20, 2004, and other editorial, errata and format changes that were necessary to update the previous documents.

The California MUTCD supersedes and replaces the previously adopted (on May 20, 2004) MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement as well as Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and the traffic signals portion of chapter 9 of the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual, as amended, and all previous editions thereof. It does not supersede the Department's Standard Plans, Standard Specifications or the Special Provisions publications.

The California MUTCD's draft versions were made available to the Department's district staff, local agencies and the general public for review and comment through two open public comment periods, which closed on November 14, 2005, and May 30, 2006. These public comment periods were followed by CTCDC workshops on November 16, 2005 and June 1, 2006, respectively. Resolutions and decisions reached, in these and other regular CTCDC meetings, since May 20, 2004 are reflected in the California MUTCD.

The California MUTCD uses the same format as the FHWA's MUTCD. It incorporates FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Edition Revision 1 in its entirety with cross-outs of all text portions that are not applicable in California. All MUTCD figures and tables that are not applicable in California are shown with blue X cross-outs.

The California text additions and enhancements are incorporated at appropriate locations and shown in blue color font with a blue margin line on the right to keep them distinct from MUTCD text.

For California topics where there is no corresponding section, figure or table in the MUTCD, the California MUTCD gives a number that begins with 101 for that section, figure or table and increases in sequence, followed with a "(CA)" to indicate that this is a California assigned section, figure or table number. The blue margin line on the right is also added to all California figures and tables to keep them distinct from the MUTCD figures and tables.

The MUTCD figures and tables that have been modified or added to, in the California MUTCD retain the same MUTCD Figure or Table number but include "(CA)" to indicate that it is the California version of the MUTCD Figure or Table.

This single document, being more comprehensive and easier to use, will lead to greater uniformity in application of traffic control devices in California, consistent with nationwide practices, by encouraging the traffic control device practitioners to use. This increased uniformity will improve transportation safety and mobility for both California residents and visitors, alike.

The Department gratefully acknowledges the FHWA's California Division, the CTCDC members, staff from various cities and counties and the Department's headquarters and districts staff for providing guidance and direction in the development of this document.

The Department hereby requests FHWA's approval of the attached California MUTCD (FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Revision 1, as amended for use in California). This document is also now posted on the Internet at the following web site:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/mutcdsupp/

The Department encourages State and local agencies to start using this document immediately. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Johnny Bhullar of my staff, at (916) 654-7312 or via e-mail at johnny_bhullar@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

STEVE PRICE
Interim Division Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Attachment

c: Devinder Singh, Secretary, CTCDC
Johnny Bhullar, Traffic Operations

bc: Steve Price, Interim Division Chief, Traffic Operations
Asif Haq, Assistant Division Chief, Traffic Operations
Gerry Meis, Traffic Operations
Jeanne Scherer, Legal
Office Chiefs, Traffic Operations

JB/amc