State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

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Be energy efficient!

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL TRAFFIC MANUAL HOLDERS

Date: May 20, 2004

From: KARLA SUTLIFF
Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: The Department Adopts FHWA's MUTCD 2003 to Replace the Traffic Manual.

As of today, May 20, 2004 the Department of Transportation has adopted 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. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of the California Vehicle Code Section 21400 and the recommendation of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC).

The MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement supersedes and replaces all the traffic control device topics (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and the traffic signals portion of chapter 9) in the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual, as amended, and all previous editions thereof. The non-traffic control device topics (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7 and the lighting portion of chapter 9) will be retained in their current form until they are assimilated in other appropriate documents. The MUTCD 2003, California Supplement and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7 and the lighting portion of Chapter 9 are available on the Internet at the following web sites:

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/mutcdsupp/
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/signdel/trafficmanual.htm

The adoption of the MUTCD 2003 and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement will lead the State of California to conform with traffic control devices used nationwide. This uniformity enhances transportation safety and efficiency for both California residents and visitors, alike.

The California Supplement electronic version posted on the California Supplement web site is the official California Department of Transportation publication. A printed version of the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement is not currently available for purchase from the California Department of Transportation. The MUTCD 2003 California Supplement may be downloaded and printed.

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.

For more information regarding California's efforts to increase national uniformity for traffic control devices 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.

c: Johnny Bhullar, HQ Traffic Operations