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Be energy efficient!*

December 19, 2013

To: Local and Regional Transportation Partners

Dear Transportation Partners:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recently developed two Buy America (BA) guidelines specific to utility relocations, and we have received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concurrence on these guidelines. These two signed guidelines are attached and will provide local agencies with a tool for assuring BA compliance on utility relocation contracts. We want to emphasize that these guidelines are ONLY applicable to utility relocation contracts and should not be applied to other construction contracts or activities. These guidelines were developed after numerous coordination meetings between the Department, utility companies, and FHWA.

The attached Implementation Guidelines (December 3, 2013) provide clarifications and definitions of the BA requirements for utility relocations. These guidelines reiterate the current transition period (which ends December 31, 2013), establish and define categories of materials that are and are not subject to BA compliance, and create an exception based on 25 percent cost increases to the contract.

The attached Material Certification Guidelines (December 3, 2013) provide two certification methods to sufficiently demonstrate BA compliance for utility relocations.

The FHWA's California Division Memorandum entitled "Clarification on the Applicability of Buy America in California" (July 12, 2013) was previously circulated; however, the table attached to the Memorandum was revised August 22, 2013. The Department was recently made aware of this revision and the Memorandum is attached for reference.

We anticipate that additional webinars and outreach activities will be scheduled over the next few months to fully explain these guidelines and answer your questions. The Department has been developing a BA web page that provides additional information and will post schedules of these outreach meetings, and this web page can be found at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/buyamerica/ba-4.htm>

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If you have additional questions, please contact your District Local Assistance Engineer.

Sincerely,



RIHUI ZHANG  
Acting Division Chief  
Division of Local Assistance