

## Memorandum

*Serious drought.  
Help Save Water!*

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction  
DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF, Structure Construction  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS  
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS  
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: December 30, 2014

File: Division of Construction  
CPD 14-11

From: for MARK LEJA, Chief  
Division of Construction

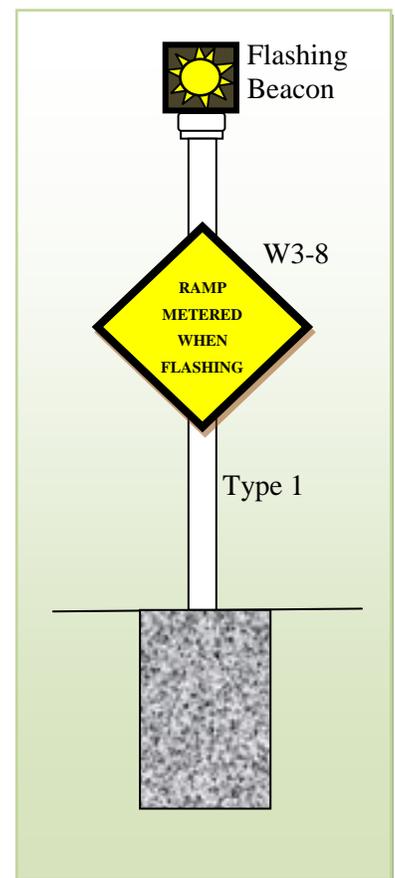
Subject: **ADVANCE RAMP METER CONTROL SIGNAL SIGNS**

This directive informs Division of Construction staff of revisions to plans and specifications for advance ramp meter control signal signs that must be implemented for ongoing projects. For projects installing ramp meters at locations shown on the plans, modifications to plans and specifications are required. This will ensure conformance with the 2012 *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA-MUTCD)*.

According to Section 2C.37 of the CA-MUTCD, the appropriate advance warning signs for ramp metering are the W3-7 sign, "RAMP METER AHEAD," and the W3-8 sign, "RAMP METERED WHEN FLASHING." The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) notified Caltrans that its use of the W3-3 sign, "SIGNAL AHEAD," and the flashing METER ON sign with ramp meters do not conform to the national standard.

To implement the above revisions, a contract change order must be executed for projects with ramp meter installations in construction. These projects must update project plans and specifications, as shown in Figure 1, by:

- Replacing W3-3 signs with W3-7 signs when the W3-3 sign was to be placed on an onramp in advance of a ramp meter control signal.
- Replacing the Type A signal housing for METER ON signs with a yellow flashing beacon on Type 1 standard.
- Adding W3-8 signs to Type 1 standard.



**Figure 1: Advance Ramp Meter Warning Sign (New)**

All construction projects, including local oversight projects, must comply with the requirements above for advance ramp meter control signal signs. A METER ON sign already installed on an ongoing project must be removed and replaced with a flashing beacon and W3-8 sign, except it may

remain in place if approval for the noncompliance METER ON sign is obtained in writing from the deputy district director of traffic operations.

A sample change order memorandum, sample change order, and an FHWA blanket prior approval for advance ramp control signal signs are attached to this directive. This directive serves as delegation of authority from the Division of Construction and approval from the FHWA for the change order, except when any of the following apply to the change order:

1. The language is altered.
2. The total absolute value exceeds \$200,000.
3. Contract time is extended by more than 20 days.

If you have questions or comments concerning this directive, please contact Ericson Ugbo, Division of Construction, at [ericson.ugbo@dot.ca.gov](mailto:ericson.ugbo@dot.ca.gov) or (916) 227-7013.

- Attachments:
1. Sample CEM-4900, "Change Order"
  2. Sample CEM-4903, "Change Order Memorandum"
  3. FHWA Form CA-358 (c), "Record of Blanket Prior Approval for Major Contract Change Order"