State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

To: All District Deputy Directors
for Environmental Planning
All District Environmental Office/Branch Chiefs

Date: October 9, 2007
File: EMO

From: KELLY C. DUNLAP
Chief
Environmental Management Office
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: Cumulative Impact and Growth-Related, Indirect Impact Analyses Guidance

As many of you are aware, the Federal Highway Administration California Division, Environmental Protection Agency Region IX, and Caltrans developed guidance papers for preparers of cumulative impact analyses and growth-related, indirect impact analyses. The Guidance for Preparers of Cumulative Impact Analysis helps preparers conduct cumulative impact analysis in support of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act and other related environmental laws/regulations. The Guidance for Preparers of Growth-related, Indirect Impact Analyses deals with the subset of indirect effects associated with highway projects that may encourage or facilitate land use or development that changes the location, rate, type, or amount of growth.

Although use of these approaches is not mandatory for Caltrans or Local Assistance projects, the use of the guidance is strongly encouraged. Because the analytical approaches have been approved by both FHWA and EPA, use of the guidance may expedite project delivery. In addition, the use of the guidance papers can also help meet the SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 requirement for collaboration with participating agencies on the appropriate methodologies and level of detail for environmental analyses in environmental impact statements.

The cumulative impact analysis guidance is available on the SER under Miscellaneous Guidance at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/cumulative_guidance/purpose.htm. The growth-related, indirect impact analysis guidance is available on the SER under Miscellaneous Guidance at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/Growth-related_IndirectImpactAnalysis/gri_guidance.htm#intro.

The annotated outlines for environmental documents, which are also available on the SER under Forms and Templates, reflect this guidance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 651-8164. Thank you.