

Chapter 19 – Non-State Employee Travel

Consultants and Contractors Travel

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References: [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Administration, Title 2 Sections 599.615 through 599.638.1](#), [California Department of Human Resources \(CalHR\) PML 2013-043](#), [PML 2015-041](#), and [PML 2016-020](#)

OVERVIEW

The information on this web site contains travel guidelines for consultants and contractors (non-state employees) doing business with Caltrans.

Reimbursement provisions are limited to the subsistence rates for excluded/non-represented employees. The guidelines outlined below reflect the most common expenses associated with travel. The department will reimburse non-state employee travel at the non-represented lodging and per diem rate unless otherwise identified under contract.

Questions regarding allowable expenses should be directed to the Caltrans contract manager.

No allowance or payment will be made for moving and relocation expenses. In addition, no allowance or payment will be made for any non-business-related expenses, which includes in-state, out-of-state and out-of-country travel, or when returning home during the course of an assignment.

SHORT-TERM TRAVEL

When the following conditions are met, short-term lodging and meals may be allowed if travel is:

- No more than 30 calendar days (not paid per diem days)

- At least 50 miles away from a consultant/contractor's headquarters and the permanent residence

Note: The consultant/contractor's return home for the weekends or non-business related travel, does not break up the continuity of the assignment.

Exceptions to these conditions must be approved by the Division of Accounting, Travel Policy Section, prior to travel. See Chapter 14 – Travel Exceptions.

An itemized receipt is required for lodging reimbursement. The receipt must be pre-printed with the hotel name and address, include the consultant/contractor's name, and indicate charges as paid in full (zero balance).

SHORT-TERM LODGING RATES

County	Current Maximum Lodging Reimbursement Rate Through December 31, 2023	Effective January 1, 2024: Maximum Lodging Reimbursement Rate
All counties except those listed below	\$90	\$107
Alameda	\$140	\$189
City of Santa Monica	\$150	\$270
Los Angeles	\$120	\$169
Marin	\$110	\$166
Monterey	\$125	\$184
Napa	\$95	\$195
Orange	\$120	\$169
Riverside	\$95	\$142
Sacramento	\$95	\$145
San Diego	\$125	\$194
San Francisco	\$250	\$270
San Mateo	\$140	\$222
Santa Clara	\$140	\$245
Ventura & Edwards AFB, excluding the city of Santa Monica	\$120	\$169
*Rate is for actual lodging expenses, supported by a receipt up to the amount listed, plus applicable taxes and fees based on the state approved lodging rate or approved lodging exception rate.		

SHORT-TERM MEAL, INCIDENTAL RATES AND REQUIREMENTS

Meals provided by the state when included in hotel expenses or conference fees, in transportation costs such as airline tickets, or otherwise provided shall not be claimed for reimbursement. Snacks and continental breakfasts such as rolls, juice and coffee are not considered to be meals.

The term "incidental expenses" means fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, hotel staff, and staff on ships. It does not include taxicab fares, lodging taxes, or the cost of telegrams, faxes, or telephone calls.

M&IE Expense Category	Current Reimbursement Rate Through December 31, 2023 for Actual Expense	Effective January 1, 2024: Reimbursement Rate for Actual Expense
Breakfast	Up to \$7	Up to \$13
Lunch	Up to \$11	Up to \$15
Dinner	Up to \$23	Up to \$26
Incidentals	Up to \$5	Up to \$5

DEPARTURE AND RETURN TIME REQUIREMENTS

In computing reimbursement for continuous short-term travel of 24 hours or more and less than 31 consecutive days, the employee will be reimbursed for actual meal and incidental costs up to the maximums allowed for each meal and incidental expense for each complete 24 hours of travel, beginning with the traveler's times of departure and return as indicated below:

On the first day of travel on a trip of 24 hours or more:

Trip begins at or before 0600 (6:00 am)	Breakfast may be claimed on the first day.
Trip begins at or before 1100 (11:00 am)	Lunch may be claimed on the first day.
Trip begins at or before 1700 (5:00 pm)	Dinner may be claimed on the first day.

On the fractional day of travel at the end of a trip of more than 24 hours:

Trip ends at or after 0800 (8:00 am)	Breakfast may be claimed.
Trip ends at or after 1400 (2:00 pm)	Lunch may be claimed.
Trip ends at or after 1900 (7:00 pm)	Dinner may be claimed.

TRAVEL LESS THAN 24 HOURS

Employees may not claim lunch or incidentals for one-day trips. When trips are less than 24 hours with no overnight stay, meals are reportable and taxable income. For continuous travel of less than 24 hours, employees may claim actual expenses for breakfast and/or dinner in accordance with the following time frames:

Trip begins at or before 0600 (6:00 am) AND ends at or after 0900 (9:00 am)	Breakfast may be claimed.
Trip begins at or before 1600 (4:00 pm) AND ends at or after 1900 (7:00 pm)	Dinner may be claimed.

LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENT TRAVEL

A long-term assignment (LTA) is any assignment:

Of 31 days or more in a single location.

A minimum of 50 miles away from a consultant's or contractor's headquarters.

A minimum of 50 miles away from a consultant's or contractor's primary residence.

A "single location" is defined as including a major metropolitan area, cities in the vicinity of one another, and locations that straddle country or state lines (within a 50-mile radius). These physical situations do not represent "different" locations.

Reimbursement for long-term meals and receipted lodging will be authorized when the consultant or contractor incurs expenses in a single location comparable to those arising from the use of commercial establishments catering to the long-term visitor. Commercial establishments are defined as, but are not limited to, apartments, rental homes and rooms, condominiums, and hotels that offer long-term amenities.

At the start of the assignment the Caltrans assigned contract manager for the consultant or contractor may authorize short-term per diem. Short-term per diem is limited to the time required to establish acceptable long-term accommodation or a maximum of 30 calendar days. Once long-term accommodation has been established, the consultant or contractor must claim long-term per diem.

Returning home for weekends or incidental short-term travel does not break the continuity of a long-term assignment.

To claim expenses for a long-term assignment, the following criteria must be met:

The consultant or contractor's assignment must qualify as a long-term assignment as described in the Overview above.

The consultant or contractor must complete and submit the "Long-Term Assignment Information and Certification of Subsistence Rates" Form [FA-1350](#) to his or her Caltrans assigned contract manager for approval. Contact the contract manager for a copy of the form.

The consultant or contractor must complete and submit the "Caltrans Long-Term Assignment Cost Analysis" Form [FA-1310](#) to his or her Caltrans assigned contract manager for approval. Contact the contract manager for a copy of the form.

The Caltrans assigned contract manager must approve the FA-1350 and the FA-1310.

The consultant or contractor must continue to maintain a primary permanent

residence that is occupied by his or her dependents or is maintained at a net expense to the consultant or contractor in excess of \$200.00 per month.

If no primary residence is maintained, per diem is one-half of the reimbursement normally allowed under the Daily Rate Method (see below).

LONG-TERM REIMBURSEMENT METHODS AND RATES

When a consultant or contractor incurs expenses in a single location in establishments catering to the long-term visitor, reimbursement may be made by one of the following methods:

Daily Rate Method

Rent and Utilities Method

Daily Rate Method:

Actual cost up to \$24.00 for meals and incidentals and actual up to \$24.00 for daily receipted lodging for travel of 12 to 24 hours at the long-term location;

OR

Actual cost up to \$24.00 for meals and incidentals **or** actual up to \$24.00 for daily receipted lodging for travel less than 12 hours at the long-term location.

Consultants or contractors who do not maintain a separate residence in the headquarters area may claim the following long-term per diem rates:

Actual up to \$12.00 for meals and incidentals and actual up to \$12.00 for daily receipted lodging for travel of 12 to 24 hours at the long-term location; and

Actual up to \$12.00 for meals and incidentals or actual up to \$12.00 for daily receipted lodging for travel less than 12 hours at the long-term location.

With approval of the Caltrans assigned contract manager, the reimbursement of long-term lodging under the Daily Rate Method may continue when the consultant or contractor is away from the long-term location on short-term business travel or other absence from that location. A short-term absence does not include returning home for the weekend.

When returning home on day(s) off, per diem terminates at the end of the work shift or at the end of the subsistence day proceeding the consultant's or contractor's day off. Per Diem resumes at the start of the shift when he or she returns to work.

Rent/Utilities:

Reimbursement for actual expense substantiated by receipts, for lodging, water, sewer, gas and electricity, up to the maximum of \$1,130 per calendar month while on the long-term assignment.

Actual expense up to \$10.00 for meals and incidentals for each period of 12 to 24 hours at the long-term location; and

Actual expenses up to \$5.00 for actual meals and incidentals for each period of less than 12 hours at the long-term location.

When a contract or consultant rents an establishment for a partial month, the full monthly rent and utilities up to \$1,130 must be pro-rated.

With approval of the Caltrans assigned contract manager, the reimbursement of long-term lodging under the Rent and Utilities Method may continue when the consultant or contractor is away from the long-term location on short-term business travel or other absence from that location. A short-term absence does not include returning home for the weekend.

When returning home on a day(s) off, per diem terminates at the end of the work shift or at the end of the subsistence day proceeding the consultant's or contractor's day off. Per diem resumes at the start of the shift when he or she returns to work.

LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENT TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

Reimbursement for transportation expenses will be allowed in the following instances:

Between the consultant's or contractor's primary permanent residence and the LTA location at the start and end of the assignment.

When the Caltrans assigned contract manager approves the consultant's or contractor's return to headquarters.

When authorized, actual private car mileage up to 25 miles per day for travel between a consultant's or contractor's living accommodations at the LTA location, the LTA job site, and to obtain meals.

With the contract manager's approval, in lieu of claiming per diem, private vehicle mileage may be reimbursed from the consultant's or contractor's

primary residence or headquarters whichever is less. The approved FA-1350 must indicate "Commute mileage in lieu of subsistence".

Parking and tolls resulting from commuting to and from the LTA residence to the job site are not reimbursable.

REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

An invoice or claim submitted for reimbursement of long-term travel expenses must include the following:

A copy of the approved "Long-Term Assignment Information and Certification of Subsistence Rates" Form [FA-1350](#).

A copy of the approved "Caltrans Long-Term Assignment Cost Analysis" [Form FA-1310](#).

The commercial lodging receipt when claimed as an expense. The receipt must be either preprinted or written and include the name, address, and phone number of the establishment, the 'to and from' dates of the stay, the amount paid, and the signature of the landlord or property manager. A copy of a canceled check or rental agreement does not meet the receipt requirement.

Utility receipts when claimed as an expense must show the item as paid before reimbursement can be claimed. Noting the check number paid to the utility company on the bill does not meet the receipt requirement.

LTA mileage and business miles to various job sites during the workday must be separated from mileage to and from the main job site and mileage to obtain meals.

The receipt for airfare, rental car, or gas for a rental car when claimed as an expense.

The receipt for train fare claimed when the expense exceeds \$24.99.

The receipt for parking, taxi, shuttle, streetcar, local rapid transit, or toll claimed when the expense exceeds \$10.00.

Questions regarding invoices or reimbursement claims should be addressed to the Caltrans assigned contract manager.

TRANSPORTATION

Private Vehicle Mileage Reimbursement Rates

For those authorized to use their personal vehicle for official State business are:

Vehicle type	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 7/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2021	Effective 1/1/2020
Personal vehicle	67 cents per mile	65.5 cents per mile	62.5 cents per mile	58.5 cents per mile	56 cents per mile	57.5 cents per mile
Specialized vehicles	67 cents per mile	65.5 cents per mile	62.5 cents per mile	58.5 cents per mile	56 cents per mile	57.5 cents per mile
Private aircraft	\$1.76 per mile	\$1.74 per mile	\$1.81 per mile	\$1.515 per mile	\$1.26 per mile	\$1.27 per mile

Commercial Rental Cars

If authorized by the contract manager, a commercial rental car may be rented. Consultants/Contractors are not required to rent from the State of California's contracted vendors however, reimbursement for a commercial rental car costs shall not exceed the rates paid to non-represented/excluded State employees. See Chapter 15 - Commercial Car Rental for more information.

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

When authorized under the contract with Caltrans, short-term out-of-state travel will be reimbursed at the following rates:

- Actual lodging expenses supported by a receipt.

- Actual meals will be reimbursed up to the maximum rates for in-state travel.

When Out-of-state travel exceeds 30 days at one location, see Chapter 5 - Long-Term Assignment guidelines for rates and policy.

OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL

When authorized under the contract with Caltrans, short-term out-of-country travel will be reimbursed at the following rates.

- Actual lodging expenses supported by a receipt.

- Actual meals and incidentals in accordance with published Federal Government meal and incidental rates for foreign travel for the specific dates of travel.

Foreign per diem rates are available at the [U.S. Department of State's](#) web site. Per Diem rates for meals must be claimed in accordance with a breakdown of meal and incidental allowance, [Appendix B](#), by referring to the location of foreign travel.

Receipts are required to be submitted for meals and incidentals claimed in excess of \$24.99.

Note: Valid documentation for foreign currency exchange rates must be submitted with the invoice to substantiate expenses claimed. If unavailable, the [Foreign Exchange Currency Converter](#) may be used as adequate documentation.

When out-of-country travel exceeds 30 days at one location, see Chapter 5 - Long-Term Assignment guidelines for rates and policy.

RECEIPT REQUIREMENTS

Type of Expense	Receipt Required (YES)	Receipt Required (NO)	Explanation
BUSINESS EXPENSES:			
Business phone calls, faxes, office supplies, etc.	X		When over \$5.00
PER DIEM EXPENSES:			
Lodging (ALL types of lodging)	X		
Meals		X	
Out-of-Country Meals	X		When the cost exceeds \$24.99
TRANSPORTATION:			
Airfare	X		
Train	X		When the cost exceeds \$24.99
Gas for rental car and State vehicles	X		Itemized receipt indicating actual expenses incurred and price per gallon. (Prepaid receipt will not be reimbursed.)
Parking, taxis, shuttles, streetcars, local rapid transit, and road tolls	X		When the cost exceeds \$10.00
Rental Cars	X		

REIMBURSEMENT OF THIRD PARTY LODGING

To comply with the receipt requirements and receive reimbursement for appropriate lodging expenses, a traveler using a third party vendor must provide:

A receipt from the third party vendor indicating the employee's name, hotel establishment providing the service, the check-in date, checkout date, itemized expenses incurred, charges paid in full, and

A receipt from the hotel that provided the service indicating the employee's name, check-in, and checkout dates.

The hotel receipt does not need to itemize the hotel rate or taxes to third party vendor.

There are no exceptions to the requirements listed above. A Travel Expense Claim (TEC) for reimbursement of third party lodging without both required receipts will result in the rejection of the claimed expense.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions requests are reviewed on a case by case basis by the Division of Accounting, Travel Payments and Policy Section.

All requests must be made through the assigned contract manager. Once approved by the Division of Accounting, a memo will be forwarded to the contract manager. The memo must be attached to the invoice to substantiate the additional expense.

Upon the contract manager's approval, the form should be emailed to the Division of Accounting, Travel Payments and Policy Section or mailed to the Division of Accounting, Travel Payments and Policy Section, MS-25 **at least 15 calendar days in advance** or as soon as the circumstances are known.

REQUESTS TO EXTEND SHORT-TERM SUBSISTENCE RATE BEYOND 30 DAYS

Short-term per diem is only allowed for a maximum of 30 consecutive days (not paid per diem days). Exception requests to exceed 30 days short-term per diem must be in writing from the assigned contract manager. Upon the contract manager's approval, the memo should be emailed to the Division of Accounting, Travel Payments and Policy Section at least 15 days in advance or as soon as the circumstances are known.

The memo should include the following information:

Name

Reason(s) why it is necessary to extend short-term rate

Dates covering the request

Efforts that have been made to secure long-term (weekly/monthly) rates

At least three quotes from establishments catering to the long-term visitor (apartments, houses, condos, etc.)

REQUESTS TO EXCEED MAXIMUM LODGING RATE, EXCLUDING TAX

Every effort should be made to use moderately priced commercial establishments that cater to the general public (avoiding resort areas, luxury hotels, condos, beach houses, cabins, etc.).

Those requesting an exception to exceed the maximum lodging rate should complete an Excess Lodging Rate Request Form [STD 255C](#).

EXCEPTIONS TO THE 50-MILE RULE

No per diem is allowed for travel less than 50 miles of a person's headquarters and/or primary residence. An exception may be granted when one or more of the following conditions are present:

- Public safety concerns
- Unavoidable hardships
- Unusual circumstances

The exception does not cover the following scenarios:

- Attendance of mandatory meals
- Lunch for trips of less than 24 hours
- Meals or lodging at the headquarters or home location
- Meals that do not meet the time requirements outlined in the meals and incidental rates and requirements section
- Networking
- Traffic Congestion

The request must include the following information:

1. Name and address of Consultant or Contractor; and
2. Location of headquarters /exception sites; Car mileage between each of the following:
 - Home to headquarters (# of miles)

Headquarters to site (# of miles)

Home to site (#of miles)

3. Name and description of the event or work to be completed.
4. Justification.

Non-State Employee Travel Reimbursement

References: [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Administration, Title 2 Sections 599.619, 599.623\(c\) and 599.626.1](#), [California Department of Human Resources \(CalHR\) PML MM86-01](#), and [State Administrative Manual \(SAM\) Section 8422.190](#)

OVERVIEW

In certain circumstances Caltrans may reimburse non-state employees for travel and per diem expenses. Non-state employees are defined by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) as follows:

Statutory Board Members: Individuals appointed to serve on boards or commissions established by law. The Governor, Legislature or department head appoints members. The appointing authority establishes headquarters for these board members.

Non-Statutory Board Members: Individuals appointed to serve on boards, commissions or task forces that are created by agency secretaries, department directors, or executive officers on an as-needed basis to fulfill the department's mission. The appointing authority establishes headquarters for these board members.

Salaried Consultants: Individuals who have a written contract with the state to perform specific duties or consultants with a verbal agreement to provide one-time services in exchange for an honorarium or speaker's fee plus travel expenses. The department establishes headquarters for salaried consultants.

Non-Salaried Consultants: Individuals serving as experts in specialized areas who receive no salary. Since their expertise is only needed for limited periods, a written contract may not be required. The appointing authority establishes headquarters for non-salaried consultants.

Civil Service Consultants: Individuals hired by the state to perform the duties of a consultant and have civil service status. The appointing authority establishes headquarters for consultants.

Volunteers: Individuals who voluntarily perform services for the state without pay. The appointing authority establishes headquarters for volunteers.

Attendants for Disabled Employees: Individuals who are readers, interpreters, drivers or attendants to disabled employees. Contact the Division of Administration, Office of Health and Safety's Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator to secure reimbursement approval for the attendant's travel expenses.

REIMBURSEMENT RATES

The reimbursement rates for travel and per diem expenses are:

Statutory and Non-Statutory Board Members: Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses based on the rates for non-represented employees. Board members may be reimbursed for actual travel expenses up to the maximums allowed for non-represented employees when attending board, commission, and committee meetings. Board members, if not on travel status, are exempt from time constraints and the 50-mile rule when attending meetings. While on travel status other than attending board, commission or committee meetings, appointees may be reimbursed for expenses under the same conditions as non-represented employees.

Salaried Consultants: Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses for salaried consultants under contract shall be stated in the contract but shall not exceed the rates established for non-represented employees. Salaried consultants under verbal contract will be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses based on the rates for non-represented employees.

Non-Salaried and Civil Service Consultants: Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses based on the rates for non-represented employees.

Volunteers: Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses based on the rates for non-represented employees.

Attendants for Disabled Employees: Travel expenses equal to the rates allowed the disabled employee.

See Appendix D - Non-represented employee rates.

REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

Claims for reimbursement should be submitted on the "Non-State or Attendant Expense Invoice" Form [FA-1301](#). Non-state employees authorized to receive travel expense reimbursement directly from departments must also complete Form [STD. 204](#) before the reimbursement is paid.

All claims must include:

The original signatures of the claimant and the approving officer.

An explanatory memo or a copy of the contract or participation agreement, whichever is appropriate. The memo, contract, or agreement must detail allowed travel expenses.

Charge coding information as provided by the approving officer.

Two copies of all required receipts. See Chapter 3 - Receipt Requirements.

Attendants for Disabled Employees must include on the claim the name of the disabled employee and describe the services provided.