State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

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To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Traffic Operations, Design, Construction, Maintenance, Right of Way
DIVISION CHIEFS
Design, Construction, Maintenance, Right of Way

Date: December 1, 2003

File: 3.3.13

From: KARLA SUTLIFF
Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROLLER CABINETS

Crash testing has revealed that "traffic controller cabinets", or cabinets housing electrical devices for various applications should be considered as fixed objects. These applications include, but are not limited to, traffic signals, ramp meters, traffic count stations, traffic monitoring stations, service equipment enclosures, roadway weather information systems, cabinets for weigh-in-motion or truck stations, and cabinet housing devices for Transportation Management Centers (TMCs).

Decisions regarding the placement of controller cabinets shall be made in accordance with the Clear Recovery Zone (CRZ) requirements contained in the Highway Design Manual (HDM).

Traffic controller cabinets should be, in order of preference, placed outside the CRZ, or shielded, preferably behind existing guardrail.

Project plans showing locations of fixed objects not meeting the CRZ distances must be documented and approved per the HDM, Index 82.2.

Implementation:

1) Policies regarding fixed objects, as documented in the Highway Design Manual, shall apply during the planning, design, and construction phases.

2) The District Safety Review Committee should review placement of proposed controller cabinets prior to construction.
3) Because of budgetary limitations a separate retrofit program will not be developed. However, as projects are developed, the project engineer in coordination with input from the District Safety Review Committee should evaluate existing controller cabinets that are in the CRZ within the project limits and follow the requirements of this memo.
4) Encroachment Permits – Permit engineers should ensure that encroachment permits proposing controller cabinets within the State right of way also comply with the policies identified above.

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