State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL PROJECT MANAGERS

Date: September 27, 2002

File: 608.3

From: BRENT FELKER
Deputy Director
Project Delivery

Subject: Reaffirmation of Metric Policy

This memorandum reaffirms the California Department of Transportation's (Department) commitment to use the International System of Units (metric) as stated in Director's Policy 15 dated August 26, 1993. All manuals, standards, specifications, plans and other documents developed for use on the State Highway System shall use metric units only (i.e., no dual units) unless a metric exception has been granted. Exceptions granted to date are:

1. Roadway signs and markers will continue to use US Standard Measures (English units).
2. Work performed within railroad right of way or requiring railroad review should be shown in dual units (both English and metric).
3. Dual units shall be shown on Right of Way appraisal maps in accordance with the memo titled Metric Policy for Appraisal Maps dated August 26, 1998.
4. Post miles (PM) may be shown in addition to kilometer posts (KP) on planning documents, contract plans, and wherever else found.
5. Work done by encroachment permit (up to $1 million) may be performed in either metric units or dual units (see memo from Robert Buckley dated October 22, 1999).
6. Projects that have been granted a metric exception for design in English or dual units (see memo from Brent Felker dated April 21, 2000).

The Department is currently publishing a dual unit version of the Standard Specifications, Standard Plans, and Standard Special Provisions for release within the next few months. These dual unit documents (which were predominantly soft converted from the metric version) are for use by local agencies only for projects off the State Highway System except as noted above.

If you have any questions regarding metric policy, feel free to check the metric website at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/metric/metricpg.htm, or contact Bill Farnbach via electronic mail or at (916) 653-0253 (CALNET 453-0253).

Attachment C

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