State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

California State Transportation Agency

Memorandum

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

To: INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Date: April 1, 2020

From: MICHAEL KEEVER
Chief Engineer
Deputy Director
Project Delivery

Subject: **CALTRANS CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19**

This is an update on the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) approach to addressing the challenges with delivering construction projects amidst the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

First and foremost is the safety and well-being of employees, consultants, and our contractor partners. If anyone finds themselves in a situation where they feel unsafe or unhealthy, we encourage them to take steps to remedy their circumstances.

Through Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20, Californians working in 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified by the federal government may continue working because of the importance of these sectors to California's health and well-being. This includes the transportation sector. In accordance with this order, the State Public Health Officer has designated highway roadway, bridges and tunnels as "Essential Critical Infrastructure" to help state, local, tribal, and industry partners as they work to protect communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The Executive Order issued by the Governor can be found at - https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER-03.19.2020-signed.pdf and accompanying guidance at https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf.

During this crisis, Caltrans continues its commitment to provide the general public with a safe and reliable transportation system. Caltrans is maintaining all critical functions during this crisis, including roadway access to medical facilities and convenient transport of essential goods and services throughout the state. To that end, construction and maintenance projects vital to a fully functioning transportation system are currently moving forward. As contractors, you play a vital role in helping us deliver our program of projects and we recognize that you are assessing your own protocols and next steps.

Caltrans continues to closely coordinate with, and monitor information from, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health and others to ensure that our practices are consistent with measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19 while carrying out our essential operations and we know that you are doing the same.

As stated in Section 7-1.02 of the "Standard Specifications", contractors are required to comply with applicable occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations, and orders. Contractors must contact the local public health service department for information concerning public health conditions within the area of the project. Additionally, contractors must have an Injury and Illness Prevention Program per the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA).

It is imperative that everyone working on Caltrans projects take practical measures to minimize exposure and prevent transmission of the virus. Caltrans is implementing the use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing for meetings with contractors. When necessary to meet in person, we are using the practice of social distancing.

Caltrans recognizes that there may be an impact to project schedules by taking these necessary precautions. If this does occur, we encourage you to work with the resident engineer to address time impacts. Any contractor who elects to discontinue construction operations due to supply chain disruptions or employee shortages shall submit a request in writing to the resident engineer. The contractor will be responsible for maintenance and water pollution control measures during the voluntary shutdown. The resident engineer will then grant non-working days or a mutual suspension per the "working day" exceptions in Standard Specification 1-1.07B.

We pride ourselves as an industry in our ability to partner together to overcome tough challenges. Caltrans is committed to fully staff construction projects with State and consultant staff to fulfill our inspection and administrative obligations. As we work through this unique and difficult challenge together, we can continue to support California's economy, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

If questions or concerns arise feel free to contact a local resident engineer, and they will quickly work with you to address them.

Please stay safe and healthy.