

CHAPTER 700 – MISCELLANEOUS STANDARDS

Topic 701 – Fences

Index 701.1 – Type, Intent and Purpose of Fences

- (1) Purpose of Fences. Fences constructed by the Department serve the purposes of either establishing control of access, providing visual demarcation or re-establishing private property lines.

Where the purpose of the fence is access control, installation is intended to establish that access is restricted; such fencing is not intended to serve as a complete physical barrier. The adjacent private property owner will assume responsibility for the construction of any fencing or other facilities necessary to contain their personal property.

- (2) *Type and Intent of Fences.* The type and intent of fences should be as described herein and in the Standard Plans and Standard Specifications.

Fence materials, including gates, installed anywhere within the State right of way are considered Departmental fences and are owned, controlled and maintained by Caltrans forces.

As a right of way consideration, Caltrans may construct fences and gates outside the State right of way. Fences and gates constructed outside the State right of way are considered private fences and are owned, controlled and maintained by the external property owner where Caltrans retains neither rights nor obligations for such fences once constructed.

- (a) Fences for freeway and expressway access control are Departmental fences commonly placed immediately inside the State right of way to help enforce observance of the acquired access rights. See Index 701.2 for more detailed guidance.
- (b) Median fences are Departmental fences constructed to help prevent indiscriminate crossings of the median by vehicles or pedestrians. These fences are a subset of freeway and expressway access control fences. See Index 701.2 for more detailed guidance.
- (c) Private fences may be constructed adjacent to conventional highways if provided via right of way agreement. Placement is typically parallel to the State right of way and outside Caltrans property. See Index 701.3 for more detailed guidance.

Private fences may also be allowed within Caltrans right of way to restrict access to a private facility crossing or as an aesthetic enhancement of Departmental fence. Neither of these situations is common and should be avoided if possible. See Indexes 701.2(3)(e) and 701.3.

- (d) Temporary fences are commonly used during project construction to temporarily control access and/or create a visual screen. Temporary fences are also commonly used during reconstruction of either Departmental or private fences. See Index 701.4 for more detailed guidance.

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- (e) Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fence is a specialty type of temporary Departmental fence, placed within the limits of a construction project and used to identify the location of sensitive biologic resources while establishing a visible boundary. Orange fabric is used to ensure contractor personnel awareness of the ESA location. See Index 701.5 for more detailed guidance.
- (f) Species protection fences are Departmental fences placed within Caltrans right of way and used to prohibit movement of specific threatened or endangered species onto the highway. These fences are unique in composition to the species being addressed. Species protection fences may be placed for either permanent or temporary applications. See Indexes 701.2(3)(b) and 701.5 for more detailed guidance.
- (g) Enclosure fences are Departmental fences of various types used to secure the perimeter around equipment storage areas from theft or vandalism, provide a perimeter around maintenance stations or other facilities, or otherwise enclose areas intended for Caltrans use. See Index 701.5 for more information.

701.2 Freeway and Expressway Access Control Fence

- (1) **Placement.** Departmental fences shall be provided on freeways and expressways to control access, except as otherwise provided under paragraph (3)(e) below. Freeway fencing or equivalent access control should extend to the limit of the legal access control on local streets at ramp termini.
- (2) **Standard Fence Types.** The standard types of freeway fence are:
 - (a) Chain Link Fencing – Type CL-6 fence or equivalent access control should be used along the right of way and in the outer separation in urban or developed areas.
 - (b) Other Fencing – In rural areas, fences on freeways normally should be either Barbed Wire, (Type BW), or Wire Mesh, (Type WM), on either wood or metal posts. Wood posts may be more aesthetic than metal posts, depending on the surrounding terrain.
 - (c) Median Fencing – Type CL-4 fence, with the distance from the ground to the bottom tension wire increased to 6 inches, should be used where median fencing is required.
- (3) **Exceptions to Standard Fence Types.**
 - (a) If walls or fences equal to or better than the standard fence in durability, maintenance requirements, and dimensions exist along the right of way line, the standard fence may be omitted or removed. To avoid a gap in the access control, standard fences should be securely joined to the existing fence or wall at its terminals, if the access control line extends beyond these points.
 - (b) Fences of special design may be installed where needed for wild animal control.
 - (c) In special cases, where improvements are scattered, the area is aesthetically sensitive, and a lower fence would be in keeping with the height of adjacent property fence, a Type CL-4 fence may be substituted for Type CL-6 along the right of way in locations where Type CL-6 would otherwise be used.
 - (d) Fencing may be omitted in remote areas where access control appears unnecessary.
 - (e) In special cases, nonstandard fencing may be considered at freeway ramp terminals on local streets when the adjacent property either is, or is proposed to be, developed in such a way that the owner feels that standard fencing is aesthetically

objectionable. If it is concluded that the objection is valid, a more compatible facility may be substituted, subject to the following controls:

- Preference should be given to retaining the standard fence along the ramp to the end of the curb return or beginning of the taper on the local road. Where this is not reasonable, there may be substituted a fence or wall of equal or better durability and utility that is at least 4 feet high relative to the grade of freeway right of way line. Walls, ornamental iron fences with closely spaced members, or chain link fences are examples of acceptable possibilities.
- Along the local road, beyond the end of the curb return or the beginning of the taper, a facility of somewhat lower standards may be employed, if considered appropriate. The minimum allowable height is 2.5 feet above the grade at the edge of the right of way. In addition to the fence types suitable for use along the ramp, split rail fences, wooden picket fences, and permanent planter boxes are examples of possibilities. The intent is to delineate the access control line and discourage access violations in an effective manner.
- Generally, all costs for the removal of the existing freeway fence and the installation and future maintenance of a nonstandard fence are to be the property owner's responsibility under the terms of the encroachment permit authorizing the substitution. On new construction, the property owner is to assume similar costs and responsibilities subject to a credit for the value of a standard fence.

(4) *Location of Fences.* Normally, fences on freeways should be placed adjacent to, but on the freeway side of the right of way line.

Fences in the outer separation normally should be placed so that the area outside of the fence may be relinquished to the local agency. Typical fence placement should be at the freeway right of way line per Figure 307.4B.

When viewed at a flat angle, chain link fencing restricts sight distance. This fact should be considered in the location of such fencing at intersections. To eliminate hand maintenance, right-angle jogs should be avoided.

(5) *Locked Gates.* Locked gates may be provided in access control fences in special situations. A proposal for a locked gate must address a necessity. Although openings controlled by locked gates do not constitute access breaks in the usual sense of access control, they must be shown on the plans. When locked gates are proposed there must be a specific reason for each gate. All gates must be kept locked and secured. Locked gates fall into two categories:

(a) Locked gates to be used exclusively for access by highway maintenance forces on Interstate require FHWA approval. Locked gates to be used exclusively for access by highway maintenance forces on non-Interstate may be approved by the District Director. The integrity and security of this access must always be assured. Maintenance forces must also keep gates locked when not being used for the access of persons or equipment. When locked gates are to be used exclusively by highway maintenance forces, one or more of the following criteria apply:

- A circuitous route would be eliminated.
- The gate access would minimize the exposure of maintenance workers to highway traffic.
- Parking is available outside the gate.
- The gate would allow slow moving equipment to be kept off the highway.

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- The site is not accessible to maintenance personal or equipment from the freeway.

(b) Proposals for locked gates to be used by utility companies, non-utility entities, or public agencies on non-Interstate must be submitted to the District Director for approval. The gate submittal must present all pertinent facts and alternate solutions.

Locked gates to be used by utility companies, non-utility entities, or public agencies require FHWA approval if the gate is on an Interstate route.

When proposals for locked gates requiring FHWA approval are included in the plans for new construction, including landscaping projects, FHWA approval of such gates will be included in FHWA approval of the project PS&E. Subsequent installations requiring FHWA approval must be submitted separately to FHWA by the Division of Design after recommendation for approval by the Chief, Office of Project Support, Division of Design.

701.3 Private Fences

(1) *Placement.* Caltrans will construct or pay the cost of fences on private property only as a right of way consideration to mitigate damages. Caltrans' construction of such fences should be limited to:

- (a) The reconstruction or replacement of existing fences.
- (b) The construction of fences across property that had been previously enclosed by fences.

These criteria apply to all private as well as public lands.

(2) *Private Fences Inside the State Right of Way.* Private fences may be constructed within the State right of way via Encroachment Permit to restrict access to facilities (e.g., canals) crossing under or through Department-owned property. A Maintenance Agreement must be executed to provide for future maintenance of the fence and allow access to the private utility.

701.4 Temporary Fences

(1) *Placement.* Temporary fences are located where necessary in accordance with construction contractor activities and where the right of way rights have been acquired.

(2) *Types of Fences.* Temporary fence design should conform to the needs of the situation and the length of time to be used. In most access control or demarcation applications the fence fabric will conform to permanent fence standards, while lesser requirements may apply to posts and post footings to more readily accommodate removal when no longer needed.

Temporary fence used during reconstruction of private fences must be of a type adequate to meet the permanent private fence purposes.

701.5 Other Fences

(1) *ESA and Species Protection Fences.* District Environmental Unit staff must specify the required placement limits and locations for ESA and species protection fences.

ESA fence material requirements are described in Section 14 of the Standard Specifications.

Species protection fences will be uniquely designed to meet the needs of the target species. District Environmental staff will provide information on the necessary design parameters. In many instances, species protection fence will be able to be directly attached to existing freeway or expressway access control fence and thus preclude the need for separate posts. Where species protection fence is to be constructed along conventional highways, it must be constructed inside the State right of way and should not be attached to any private fence that may exist.

- (2) *Enclosure Fences.* Because these fences are commonly intended to provide security for Caltrans facilities, the facility type and location will often dictate the fence design to be used. Standard chain link (CL-6) fence is most common, but additions (barbed wire extension arms) or alternative designs may be considered. When slats are included as an element of the design, wind forces are considered and a resulting increase in the size and depth of embedment of fence posts as well as an increase in the size of the concrete footing occurs. See the Standard Plans for further details including post size and footing dimensions for various fence heights.

Typically District Maintenance or Traffic Operations will specify any unique design requirements for enclosure fences as they will assume responsibility after construction.

Topic 702 – Miscellaneous Traffic Items

702.1 References

- (1) *Guardrail and Crash Cushions.* See Traffic Safety Systems Guidance.
- (2) *Markers.* See Part 3 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD).
- (3) *Truck Escape Ramps.* See Traffic Bulletin No. 24, (1986) and the NCHRP Report 178.
- (4) *Mailboxes.* See the AASHTO Roadside Design Guide, 3rd Edition, Chapter 11, “Erecting Mailboxes on Streets and Highways.”

Topic 703 – Special Structures and Installation

703.1 Truck Weighing Facilities

The Division of Traffic Operations coordinates the design and construction of truck weighing facilities with the California Highway Patrol in Sacramento. Typical plans showing geometric details of these facilities are available from the Headquarters Division of Traffic Operations. Districts should refer truck weighing facility maintenance issues to their District maintenance units.

See Index 107.1 for additional details on roadway connections for truck weighing facilities.

703.2 Rockfall Restraining Nets

Rockfall Restraining Nets are protective devices designed to control large rockfall events and prevent rock from reaching the traveled way. The systems consist of rectangular panels of woven wire rope vertically supported by steel posts and designed with frictional brake elements capable of absorbing and dissipating high energies. For additional

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information on the characteristics and applications for rockfall restraining nets, designers should contact the Division of Engineering Services - Geotechnical Services (DES-GS).

Topic 704 – Contrast Treatment

704.1 Policy

In general, delineation should be composed of the standard patterns discussed in Part 3 of the California MUTCD.

Markings include lines and markings applied to the pavement, raised pavement markers, delineators, object markers, and special pavement treatments.

Contrast treatment is designed primarily to provide a black color contrast with an adjacent white surface. Normally, contrast treatment should be used only in special cases such as the following:

- (a) To provide continuity of surface texture for the guidance of drivers through construction areas.
- (b) To provide added emphasis on an existing facility where driver behavior has demonstrated that standard signs and markings have proven inadequate.

When contrast treatment is applied, a slurry seal should be used.

See Part 3 of the California MUTCD for additional information on contrast treatment.

Topic 705 – Materials and Color Selection

705.1 Special Treatments and Materials

Special materials or treatments, such as painted concrete, or vinyl-clad fences, are sometimes proposed for aesthetic reasons, or to comply with special requirements.

The following guidelines are to be used for the selection of these items:

- (a) Concrete should not be painted unless exceptional circumstances exist, due to the continuing and expensive maintenance required. Concrete subject to unintentional staining should be textured during construction to minimize the visibility of stains, if other methods of controlling stain-producing runoff or dripping cannot be accomplished.
- (b) Vinyl-clad fences are sometimes specified for aesthetic reasons. The cost of this material is higher than that of galvanized steel. Special consideration should be given to the life-cycle cost and maintainability of vinyl-clad fencing prior to selection for use. The use of black or green vinyl-clad mesh for access control fencing, safety fencing at the top of retaining walls, and pedestrian overcrossing fencing is acceptable.

705.2 Colors for Steel Structures

Colors for steel bridges and steel sign structures may be green, gray, or neutral tones of brown, tan, or light blue.

Criteria for selection of colors are:

- (a) General continuity along any given route.
- (b) Coordination of color schemes with adjacent Districts for interdistrict routes.
- (c) Requests from local agencies for improvement of aesthetics in their community.

Color selection for steel bridges should be mutually satisfactory to the Division of Engineering Services and the District. The Division of Engineering Services (DES) will initiate the color selection process by submitting the proposed color to the District Landscape Architect for review. The color for steel sign structures will be selected by the District Landscape Architect.

Topic 706 – Roadside Management and Vegetation Control

706.1 Roadside Management

Consider the full life-cycle cost of transportation improvements including the long-term cost of maintenance. The design alternative with the lowest initial construction cost may not be the best solution if this approach will include high recurring maintenance costs. Designers should strive to select design approaches that do not require extensive recurring long-term activities.

The design should contribute to the safety of Department maintenance workers by incorporating techniques that eliminate or reduce worker exposure to traffic. See Index 901.2.

The following conditions must be considered in projects:

- Guardrail, including standard railing, terminal system end treatments, guard railing at structure approach and departures, and at fixed objects should include vegetation control. For more detailed information regarding placement of vegetation control consult with both the District Landscape Architect and District Maintenance. See the Standard Plans for vegetation control.
- Thrie beam barrier, including single thrie beam barrier, double thrie beam barrier, at structure approach and at fixed objects should include vegetation control. For more detailed information regarding placement of vegetation control consult with both the District Landscape Architect and District Maintenance. See the Standard Plans for vegetation control.
- Unpaved narrow strips often result from the construction of noise barriers or concrete barriers beyond the paved shoulder edge. Unpaved strips 15 feet or less in width, parallel and immediately adjacent to the roadway, should be paved to the barrier or wall. Paving these areas eliminates the need for manual vegetation control, and allows automated equipment to remove litter and debris. Pavement requirements are consistent with the guidance contained in this manual. Contrasting surface treatment such as markings, delineation, or color may also be provided so drivers can distinguish these areas from those intended for vehicular use. Consult with the District Landscape Architect for contrasting surface selection.
- Unpaved areas greater than 15 feet in width may include vegetation control techniques such as weed control mats, patterned asphalt or stamped concrete paving, or the planting of low maintenance vegetation such as native grasses. Consult the District

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Landscape Architect and District Maintenance to select an appropriate vegetation control technique.

- Noise barriers should be designed with a textured aesthetic treatment and/or planted with vines to reduce maintenance required to control graffiti. Index 904.7 contains information of the planting on noise barriers.
- Unpaved area beyond the gore pavement should be paved as per Index 504.2(2).
- When placing roadside facilities that require recurring maintenance, the designer should strive to include improvements that facilitate safe maintenance access such as maintenance vehicle pullouts, maintenance access paths, walk gates and vehicle gates. It is preferred that access be provided from outside the right-of-way for all facilities that require maintenance access.
- When placing noise barriers in areas with a narrow right of way, the designer should consider locating a concrete safety shape barrier 3 feet from the face of the noise barrier to provide protected maintenance access.

Formal safety reviews for roadside management issues should be accomplished as discussed in Index 110.8. Consult the District Landscape Architect and District Maintenance unit early during design development to identify and address potential roadside management issues, such as avoiding the redundant placement of roadside facilities, or allow for the consolidation of roadside facilities.

706.2 Vegetation Control

Weed control fabric or preemergent chemicals may be placed under pavement to prevent weed growth through medians, traffic islands, and other paved areas.

The Division of Maintenance is responsible for the selection of herbicides. Approval is required for any changes from the currently approved Standard Specifications and Standard Special Provisions for pesticides and herbicides.

Since preemergents may be transported by water, they should be mixed with surfactants to prevent affects on environmentally sensitive areas, habitat, native vegetation, landscape plantings, agricultural crops, adjacent residential, commercial or recreation areas, streams, or water bodies.

Before specifying preemergents, the District Landscape Architect and District Landscape Specialist should be consulted to determine the possibility of future planting.

Topic 707 – Slope Treatment Under Structures

707.1 Policy

Structure end slope should be treated to:

- (a) Protect slopes from erosion.
- (b) Improve aesthetics.
- (c) Reduce long term maintenance costs.

Caltrans maintenance, landscape architecture, materials, design, and other affected units will furnish input to determine slope treatment needed at each site. Local agency input should be obtained for urban undercrossings.

All types of slope treatments require adequate drainage facilities for water from the upper roadway. Inadequate drainage is a major source of slope erosion.

707.2 Guidelines for Slope Treatment

- (a) Full slope paving shall be installed where it is anticipated that erosion by pedestrians, wind, storm water, or other causes will occur. High landscape maintenance costs caused by inadequate moisture, sunlight, instability to establish vegetation etc., may also justify the use of full slope paving in lieu of planting. The District Landscape Architect will provide aesthetic input slope paving and identify irrigation conduit location(s).
- (b) Landscaped structure end slopes may be justified when adjacent slopes are landscaped and when landscaping is compatible with adjacent development. Conditions must exist where plants would have a strong likelihood of survival.
- (c) Bare slopes have minimum initial costs and higher maintenance costs which vary with the site. Bare structure end slopes may be justified at rural sites and other areas where anticipated maintenance activity will be low and there is little likelihood for erosion. Appropriate drainage design is critical when slopes are left bare.
- (d) Adequate drainage facilities must be provided to prevent saturation of abutment foundation materials and damage to slope treatment.
- (e) Additional protection may be required at stream crossings to provide for flow velocity.

707.3 Procedure

Based on consultation with the District Landscape Architect and Structures Bridge Architect and in consideration of economic and aesthetic factors, the District will determine, and set forth with the bridge site plan submittal, the type of slope treatment indicating whether:

- (a) The Division of Engineering Services is to design the slope treatment with the bridge and include the cost in the Structure items; or
- (b) The District will design the slope treatment and include the details with the road plans.

