Director's Policy

Number: DP-30

Effective Date: June 22, 2012

Supersedes: *New*

TITLE Climate Change

POLICY

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) considers and integrates climate change through mitigation and adaptation strategies into Departmental decisions and activities as a result of:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 mandating the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020;
- Executive Order (EO) S-20-06 directing State agencies to implement the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006;
- EO S-13-08 directing State agencies with vulnerable construction projects to plan for potential Sea Level Rise (SLR) impacts;
- EO B-18-12 directing State agencies to reduce entity wide GHG emissions, reduce water use at State facilities, and purchase and use environmentally preferable products.

Caltrans promotes measures, practices, and business operations to minimize GHG emissions. These can include, but are not limited to the following: advocating for efficient land use and transportation planning; Transportation Demand Management strategies, implementing operational improvements to increase the efficiency of the transportation system; incorporating climate change mitigation, adaptation, and energy efficient strategies into the design and maintenance of our facilities; and seeking new opportunities to implement clean energy alternatives when possible.

Caltrans strives to be consistent with EO S-20-06, EO S-13-08, EO B-18-12, and is an active participant in the Climate Action Team (CAT), which coordinates State agencies' climate change efforts. Caltrans shall, as appropriate and feasible, incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations into all facets of operations, and will work to partner with local, State, federal entities, and other stakeholders as appropriate to coordinate climate change related activities.

INTENDED RESULTS

To establish a Departmentwide policy that will ensure coordinated efforts to incorporate climate change into Departmental decisions and activities. This policy contributes to Caltrans' stewardship goal to preserve and enhance California's resources and assets.

BACKGROUND/DEFINITIONS

Global climate change could impact the State's transportation infrastructure and if not addressed, could increase long-term costs for the maintenance and operation of the State Highway System (SHS) which would impair mobility and safety.

EO S-20-06 directs State agencies to coordinate, develop, and support GHG reduction policies and recommendations to implement the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. State agencies coordinate their climate change efforts through the CAT. EO S-13-08 directs State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to SLR to begin planning for potential impacts by considering a range of SLR scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100. EO B-18-12 directs State Agencies to reduce entity wide GHG emissions, and water usage at State facilities by at least 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.

Mitigation of GHG Emissions: Reduce GHG emissions.

Adaptation: Adjustment to transportation infrastructure in response to actual or expected climatic effects includes the development of methods to protect people, places, and resources from the impacts of global climate change. This can include, but is not limited to, taking future climate change impacts such as SLR into consideration, and planning and implementing appropriate design changes to bridges and other appropriate transportation infrastructure.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Director:

- Establishes and promotes a strategic Departmentwide Climate Change Program to address related issues impacting operations and the overall SHS.
- Ensures the planning for and establishment of the resources needed to address climate change related issues within Caltrans.

Chief Deputy Director:

- Coordinates climate change mitigation and adaptation measures across all programs, with other State Agencies, departments, and external stakeholders.
- Supports innovation and new business practices within Caltrans that minimize GHG emissions.
- Encourages coordination within Caltrans to minimize GHG emissions from the transportation system.

Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs:

- Oversees the development, coordination, and implementation of Caltrans' Climate Change Policy.
- Provides management and support to Caltrans' Climate Change Workgroup and coordinates climate change activities across all appropriate programs.
- Coordinates and promotes cross-agency policy development with external agencies and other stakeholders.

- Facilitates coordination between climate change functions at Caltrans Headquarters and within the Districts.
- Incorporates GHG mitigation efforts and potential adaptation strategies into Caltrans' long range transportation and fiscal planning efforts.
- Supports California Government Code 65072.2, which requires Caltrans to address how the State will achieve maximum feasible emissions reductions, and identifies the transportation system that would be needed to meet the requirements of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.
- Ensures adequate allocation of resources for conducting necessary State plans and appropriate project level studies.

Deputy Director for Maintenance and Operations:

- Promotes the reduction of fossil fuel consumption and encourages practices to ensure a cleaner, more efficient vehicle fleet.
- Supports energy efficient maintenance and operation of the SHS.
- Supports climate change related research, consistent with Caltrans' strategic goals and objectives.
- Ensures a flexible and coordinated response to climate change impacts on the SHS and to related Departmental facilities.

Deputy Director for Project Delivery:

- Coordinates the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the design and construction of transportation infrastructure.
- Ensures climate change factors are considered in environmental, land surveys, right of way, air quality assessments, and documents.
- Ensures the adequate allocation of resources for conducting appropriate project level studies pertaining to climate induced impacts and adaptive alternatives.
- Assesses the long-term environmental effects of Caltrans' projects with consideration of climate change impacts.
- Ensures the incorporation of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in project delivery manuals and other guidance documents.
- Develops specifications and special provisions for Department construction contracts that promote the reduction of GHGs.

Deputy Director for Administration:

- Ensures the use of alternative clean energy at Departmental facilities as appropriate and feasible.
- Ensures business practices are implemented to minimize GHG emissions at Departmental facilities as appropriate and feasible.
- Encourages the purchase and use of environmentally preferable products when appropriate and feasible.

District Directors:

- Coordinate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures as appropriate across all District programs.
- Partner with local and regional stakeholders to promote consistent application of climate change policies on the SHS and local streets and roads projects.
- Plan, design, construct, maintain, and operate the SHS to preserve energy, resources, and reduce risk and increase resiliency to projected future climate change impacts.
- Appropriately apply climate change policies and processes in projects.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Caltrans employees involved in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the State's transportation infrastructure and the Department's projects and activities.

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Director

6/22/2012
Date Signed