

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 1, P. O. BOX 3700
EUREKA, CA 95502-3700
PHONE (707) 445-6412
FAX (707) 441-2048
TTY 711



*Serious drought.
Help save water!*

June 4, 2014

Linda Ruffing, City Manager
City of Fort Bragg
416 North Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Dear Ms. Ruffing,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the *Fort Bragg Way Finding Plan, April 2014* (Plan). We commend the City on taking the lead in an effort to address the signage and navigation issues in and around Fort Bragg. The Plan will help develop improvements that will assist travelers in finding and discovering the City of Fort Bragg, remove sign-clutter, improve local aesthetics, and benefit the local economy. We offer the following comments:

Our review is primarily to ensure that a clear message is being communicated to the public that is not in conflict with any existing signing or with state highway signing requirements. Our main source of information and requirements is the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD-CA 2012), which contains standards, guidance, options and support. Way finding signs need to work within the existing system (2012 MUTCD-CA, Section 2D.50). We strongly support the goal of reducing sign clutter and improving communication with the traveling public. We offer the following comments:

- The Introduction contains useful information about wayfinding and its application. We recommend you expand this section and provide the specific definition of the term “wayfinding” as it pertains to the 2012 California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices [(MUTCD-CA), Section 2D.50].
- We concur that existing signage issues and deficiencies as described in Section 3, Figure 3 of the Plan are undesirable and need to be addressed.
- Since the Skunk Train is a private business, it would be governed by the Outdoor Advertising Act (ODA). The City may wish to consider signing the "Skunk Train Depot" as a point of interest.
- We agree with the recommendation to simplify the welcome “monument” signs by eliminating the special event sections, as they add clutter and often contain commercial entities which would be subject to the ODA.
- Appendix A is not included.
- Sections of the Appendix should be labeled consistently i.e., “Appendix A and B” or “Appendix I and II.”

- Proposed changes to signs for Noyo Harbor and College of the Redwoods should be reviewed and approved by those entities, and may be subject to special regulations.
- Appendix II is a series of pictures of local signs with notations indicating “to be removed” or “to be replaced.” Please consider adding a narrative explanation of this section. It is not clear if this section is a comprehensive inventory of all existing wayfinding and destination signing, as well as all proposed changes. Note: some of the pages are difficult to see as they are blurry and/or black and white. This could be a technical/software issue.
- We recommend inclusion of a separate section (potentially an Appendix) that includes a comprehensive list of all existing signs and proposed changes. Sign locations should be listed by postmile. A justification for new signs or removal of old signs should be given where appropriate. When all proposed changes have been reviewed by Caltrans, we may have additional comments. It is likely that prior to finalization of the detailed plan, a meeting with City staff and Caltrans staff would be productive.
- The Plan indicates that all proposed signs are in compliance with Caltrans regulations and the 2012 MUTCD-CA. This will be verified during the encroachment permit process, and you are encouraged to obtain further departmental review prior to applying for the encroachment permit. Any work within the State right of way, (sign removal, placement, landscaping, etc.) will require an encroachment permit. Requests for encroachment permit application forms can be sent to Caltrans District 1 Permits Office, P.O. Box 3700, Eureka CA 95502-3700, or requested by phone at (707) 445-6390. Encroachment permit application forms, the Permit Manual and application instructions can now be found on line at:
<<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>>.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and provide comment on the *Fort Bragg Wayfinding Plan, 2014*. We understand that developing a wayfinding plan is a complex task. We are looking forward to working with you to advance solutions that meet the needs of the community and traveling public and comply with state guidance and requirements. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss any outstanding issues. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this letter please feel free to contact me at the number above or rex.jackman@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



REX A. JACKMAN
Chief, Transportation Planning
Caltrans District 1

c. Marie Jones