

Election Campaign Signs

Solana Beach Municipal Code

17.64.060 Signs or actions exempt from permit requirements.

Unless otherwise specifically prohibited or regulated by the provisions of this chapter regulating signs within various zones, or by the terms of a comprehensive sign plan, the signs or actions listed below are allowed and are exempt from the requirements for sign permits. An electrical, building or similar construction permit may be required under SBMC Title 15. Signs which are not installed or maintained, or actions which are not done in full compliance with the terms or conditions of this section, are prohibited.

Q. Election Campaign Signs. In addition to other authorized temporary signs conveying noncommercial messages, campaign signs relating to federal, state, county, city, school district, special district or other governmental agency elections are permitted on private property. Each campaign sign shall not exceed five square feet in area and, if freestanding, 42 inches in height. Signs attached to and not exceeding the top of fences or buildings may exceed the 42-inch height limit. Each campaign sign shall be removed within 10 days of the election to which it relates.

Art Larson, (619) 696-4307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POSTING SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES IS DANGEROUS, POLITICIANS WARNED

San Diego, May 2, 1994 -- Tacking election campaign signs on San Diego Gas & Electric power poles is not only illegal, it also is dangerous to the men and women who must operate and maintain the community's electric services, Mary Wood, SDG&E associate general counsel, warned area politicians.

"The nails and staples used to tack up the signs are a real safety hazard to our electric system workers," she explained.

"If the nails aren't seen, they could cut a worker's safety glove, exposing the worker to electric shock. Even if the worker sees the nails, time would have to be taken to remove the signs or tacks, increasing costs and delaying the restoration of electricity," Wood said.

"The California Criminal Code makes it a misdemeanor for any person to place a sign on any property without the consent of the property owner. Those who do post signs on our poles without our consent could face criminal prosecution," she added.

"Moreover, state law makes it a crime to interfere with, or obstruct, any apparatus connected with electric facilities. We call upon all political candidates to urge their campaign workers to obey the law and to avoid putting our workers at risk," Wood said.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SIGN INFORMATION

COUNTY SIGN INFORMATION



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

January 23, 2006

Dear Candidate:

The records of the Registrar of Voters indicate that you have filed for election to a public office in the County of San Diego.

In the course of your campaign, should you desire to utilize election posters as one of your means of communication with the electorate, it is necessary that you be aware of the conditions under which such signs may be placed within or adjacent to County unincorporated area road and street rights-of-way. Attached for your convenience and information is a copy of Policy J-5, "Regulations, Signs in County Road Rights-of-Way Other than Official Directional and Regulatory Signs," adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, and amended last on September?

You may apply for a temporary encroachment permit, which is a non-refundable \$90.00 fee, at the Department of Public Works, Land Development Counter, 5201-D Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123 or call (858) 694-2055 for information. A sketch showing the number of posters and the approximate location of each should be submitted at the time the application is completed.

All signs placed in the County right-of-way contrary to the provisions of Policy J-5 or remaining after Election Day will be removed by the County of San Diego under the authority of Section 1460 of the California Streets and Highways Code. At the time a permit is applied for, the permittee shall agree to pay for the County cost of removal of any such signs.

Your cooperation in complying with the policy and maintaining clean and uncluttered streets and highways will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John L. Snyder
Director

JS:sab

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SIGN INFORMATION (Continued)

APPLICATION TO ENCROACH UPON COUNTY HIGHWAY

GOVERNED BY CHAPTER 6, DIVISION 1
TITLE 7 OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE

DATE _____

FOR COUNTY USE ONLY	
CHARGE TO	_____
DEPOSIT	_____
FEE	_____
TOTAL	_____
PERMIT #N	_____

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE D, MS-0336
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1666
PHONE: (858) 694-2055 • FAX: (858) 279-7020

THOMAS BROTHERS			
YEAR	PAGE	COORD.	

Owner/Permittee _____ Telephone () _____
Last name First

Mailing Address _____
Street City State Zip code

Location of encroachment _____
Street City

APN # _____

Driveway Fencing Political Signs Scaffolding Storage Yard Other

Describe _____

Will encroachment interfere with the public use and maintenance of:

Travelled way? Yes No Side path or sidewalk? Yes No
Shoulder or parking lane? Yes No Drainage structure or watercourse? Yes No

Justification for Encroachment _____

Permit requested: 1 day 3 days 10 days Indefinite _____ days Effective date _____ 12:101 a.m.

AGREEMENT

In consideration of the granting of this permit, the applicant agrees:

- To save harmless the County of San Diego and any officer or employee thereof from any liability or responsibility for any accident, loss or damage to persons or property, happening or occurring as the proximate result of any placement, change or renewal of an encroachment under the terms of this permit, and to assume all of said liabilities.
- To comply with all applicable laws in the establishment, maintenance and removal of the encroachment.
- That the permittee and any other person engaged in any work authorized by this permit shall conform to all due safety precautions for the protection of persons and property.
- To remove or relocate any encroachment placed, changed or renewed under the authority of this permit; prior to its expiration or within 24 hours of notification to remove, if the duration is 10 days or less; or within 5 days of notification to remove, if the permit is of indefinite duration.
- After removing or relocating the encroachment, to restore the highway to the equivalent or better condition than it was prior to the date this permit became effective, or prior to the date the encroachment was first placed, whichever is earlier.

I hereby agree to provide the indemnification as required by Chapter 2 of Division 6 of Title 8 of the San Diego County Code.
"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the statements made herein are true and correct."

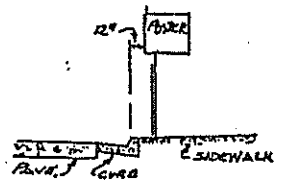
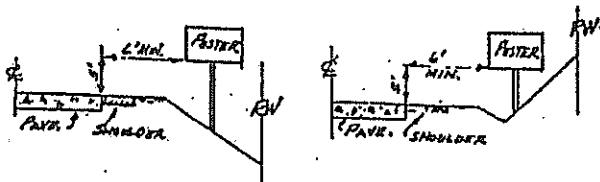
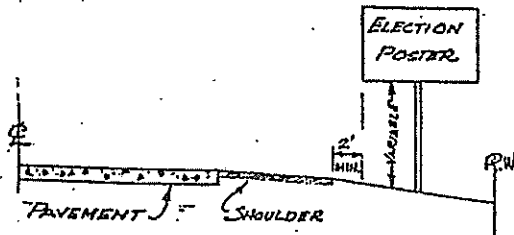
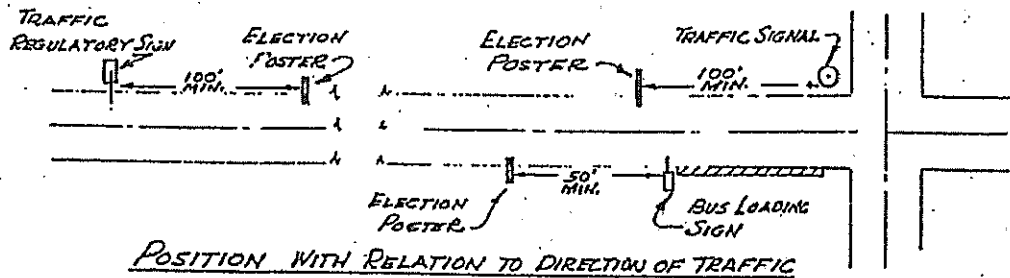
Signed _____
Owner's Signature Date

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SIGN INFORMATION (Continued)

COUNTY SIGN INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERMITTEE:

1. Election Posters placed within County Road and Street Rights of Way must be positioned in accordance with the sketches shown hereon.
2. Number of Posters and Location of Each Poster shall conform to information furnished at time of issuance of Permit.



COUNTY SIGN INFORMATION (Continued)

Policy J-5

Purpose

To establish regulations as to the design, construction, and erection of signs in County rights of way.

Background

The State of California Streets and Highways Code, Chapter 5.5, Division 2, provides the authority for the County Road Commissioner to control signs within the County's rights of way. This authority was granted to assist in roadside cleanup and litter removal programs. The County's Strategic Plan includes a Safe and Livable Communities Initiative. County control of signs in County road rights of way helps keep communities safe and livable by enhancing roadway safety and helping communities in the County retain their character.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

A. Permanent Signs:

1. Eligibility/Purpose:

a. Signs are permitted in the County rights of way for the purpose of promoting traffic or public safety. Eligibility for directional signs shall be determined by the Director of Public Works in conformity with those regulations found in Section 4-04.13 of the Caltrans Traffic Manual addressing safety. A denial of eligibility may be appealed to the Planning Commission pursuant to Sections 7200-7206 of The Zoning Ordinance.

b. Public organizations and private organizations, such as bench advertising agencies, are eligible to place transit benches with and without advertising within the County rights of way. However, this policy shall not supersede adopted overlay zones or ordinances (Section 6203(a) of The Zoning Ordinance) which may restrict placement of benches with or without advertising within the County rights of way.

2. Encroachment Permit:

A revocable encroachment permit shall be obtained from the Department of Public Works prior to placement of all signs, benches, shelters, or chairs within the County rights of way.

The County may revoke a permit by giving 30 days notice to remove, in writing, to the permittee. The encroachment permit shall provide that if the sign has not been removed within this period, it may be removed and destroyed by the County at the permittee's expense.

3. Location:

a. Destination and Public Safety Signs:

(1) The location of all signs shall be approved by the Director of Public Works or the Director's representative to ensure traffic safety.

(2) Signs shall not be permitted within 100 feet of traffic signals or within 100 feet of official directional or regulatory signs (stop, speed, parking, etc.) on any street where such signs are located, or closer than 50 feet to transit loading zone signs.

(3) A sign may be placed at every decision point on the route to the destination. A minimum spacing of 60 meters between directional signs should be maintained. If there are more eligible destinations at a given intersection than can be accommodated under the above limitations and 3(a)(5) below, they must compete for signs based on traffic volumes to these destinations. Normally, destination signage is via the route requiring the least amount of time to travel from the nearest state highway. Neighborhood Watch signs are exempt from this subsection.

COUNTY SIGN INFORMATION

POLICY J-5 (Continued)

(4) Signs shall be installed in compliance with all sections of the Vehicle Code and safety laws.

(5) At locations where three or more directional signs are located within 200 feet, all shall be grouped on single posts and panels not to exceed a total of four destinations.

b. Transit Bench and Transit Shelter Advertising Signs:

The placement of transit benches and transit shelters with advertising signs shall be in compliance with Board of Supervisors Policy J-31 and Section 6203(1) of The Zoning Ordinance.

4. Construction Designs and Material of Signs:

a. Destination and Public Safety Signs:

(1) All signs shall be of permanent, durable materials, such as porcelain and enamel steel or other acceptable construction and of standard size in accordance with Caltrans standards, except community identification signs at the entrances to cities and towns.

(2) All signs shall be of standard material, design, shape, size and color (as approved by the Director of Public Works or a representative).

(3) A 3/8" black border 1/4" from the edge of the sign shall be provided.

(4) Not more than three lines of copy will generally be permitted with a minimum height of 2-1/4" plain capital block lettering, and all signs shall include an arrow at the bottom of the sign to indicate directions.

(5) No seals, emblems, or insignia, nor any other color paint will be permitted on signs.

(6) Posts for signs shall be 4" x 4", S4S; clear redwood, 11 feet long.

(7) Posts shall be painted with one prime coat and two coats of white lacquer enamel. The bottom 48" of the post shall have in addition one coat of black asphalt paint.

(8) The bottom of the posts shall be 2'6" below the ground or sidewalk level.

(9) The sign and post shall be so placed as to minimize the hazard to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

(10) The sign shall be attached to the post with two 5/16" galvanized carriage bolts.

b. Transit Bench and Transit Shelter Advertising Signs:

Construction, design and materials for transit benches and transit shelters with advertising signs shall be in compliance with Board of Supervisors Policy J-31 and Section 6203(1) of The Zoning Ordinance.

5. Illegal Signs:

Signs placed in the County rights of way contrary to the above provisions are illegal and will be removed by the County and destroyed. However, any signs existing prior to the adoption of this policy will be posted with a removal notice fastened securely to the sign or billboard to notify the owner the date that this sign will be removed by the County if not removed by owner.

6. Full Cost Recovery

Private parties requesting a sign shall pay all costs of processing, construction and installation by the Department of Public Works.

B. Temporary Election Campaign Signs:

1. For purposes of this Policy, Election Campaign Signs shall be defined as signs for elections conducted by the Registrar of Voters.

COUNTY SIGN INFORMATION

POLICY J-5 (Continued)

2. Temporary public election campaign posters may be permitted, subject to the following procedures:

a. The Registrar of Voters shall maintain copies of the Board policy relative to election posters and shall issue a copy to each candidate at the time the candidate's petition is issued.

b. In order to prevent a danger to motorists and pedestrians due to confusion and distraction, which may be caused due to the posting of signs in certain locations where they compete with traffic safety signs or interfere with visibility, it shall be necessary to obtain a revocable Encroachment Permit from the Director of Public Works.

(1) The maximum size of a poster shall be four square feet.

(2) The poster shall (on the back) identify the Encroachment Permit number.

(3) No sign shall be placed in the right of way earlier than 90 days prior to an election.

(4) The permit shall require the signer to obtain permission to place any signs on or attached to the property of others, and shall provide that the permit shall be revoked if the permittee uses the property of others without their permission. Nothing in the permit shall be taken to imply County permission to place signs on property of others.

(5) The permit shall require the permittee to remove his/her signs within two weeks after the election for which the permit was issued, and shall authorize the County to remove, without notification, signs not so removed by signer.

(6) In each instance and under the same conditions as the Policy permits temporary campaign signs, a sign containing a non-commercial message and constructed to the same physical dimensions and characteristics shall be permitted.

(7) The County shall charge for sign removal and the permittee shall, in signing his/her permit, agree to pay for County cost of removal of his/her signs.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-09.

Board Action

10-18-65 (9)

County Engineer Letter 1-14-66

01-25-66 (86)

06-23-69 (98)

07-24-79 (41)

10-6-82 (56)

12-4-84 (14)

07-26-88 (43)

12-12-89 (49)

05-18-94 (3)

07-14-99 (4)

05-15-02 (3)

09-18-02 (5)

06-18-03 (9)

06-23-04 (12)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works

2. Department of Planning and Land Use

STATE SIGN INFORMATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING PROGRAM



Dear Candidate or Committee Member:

As a candidate or campaign worker for either office or a ballot measure, this reminder about State law governing campaign signs should be helpful to you.

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements.

A Temporary Political Sign meets the following criteria:

- A. Encourages a particular vote in a schedule election.
- B. Is placed not sooner than 90 days prior to the schedule election and is removed within 10 days after that election.
- C. Is no larger than 32 square feet.
- D. Has had a Statement of Responsibility filed with the Department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign (Attached).

A completed Statement of Responsibility must be submitted to the appropriate District Office according to the county location of the Temporary Political Sign(s). (See attached map for address)

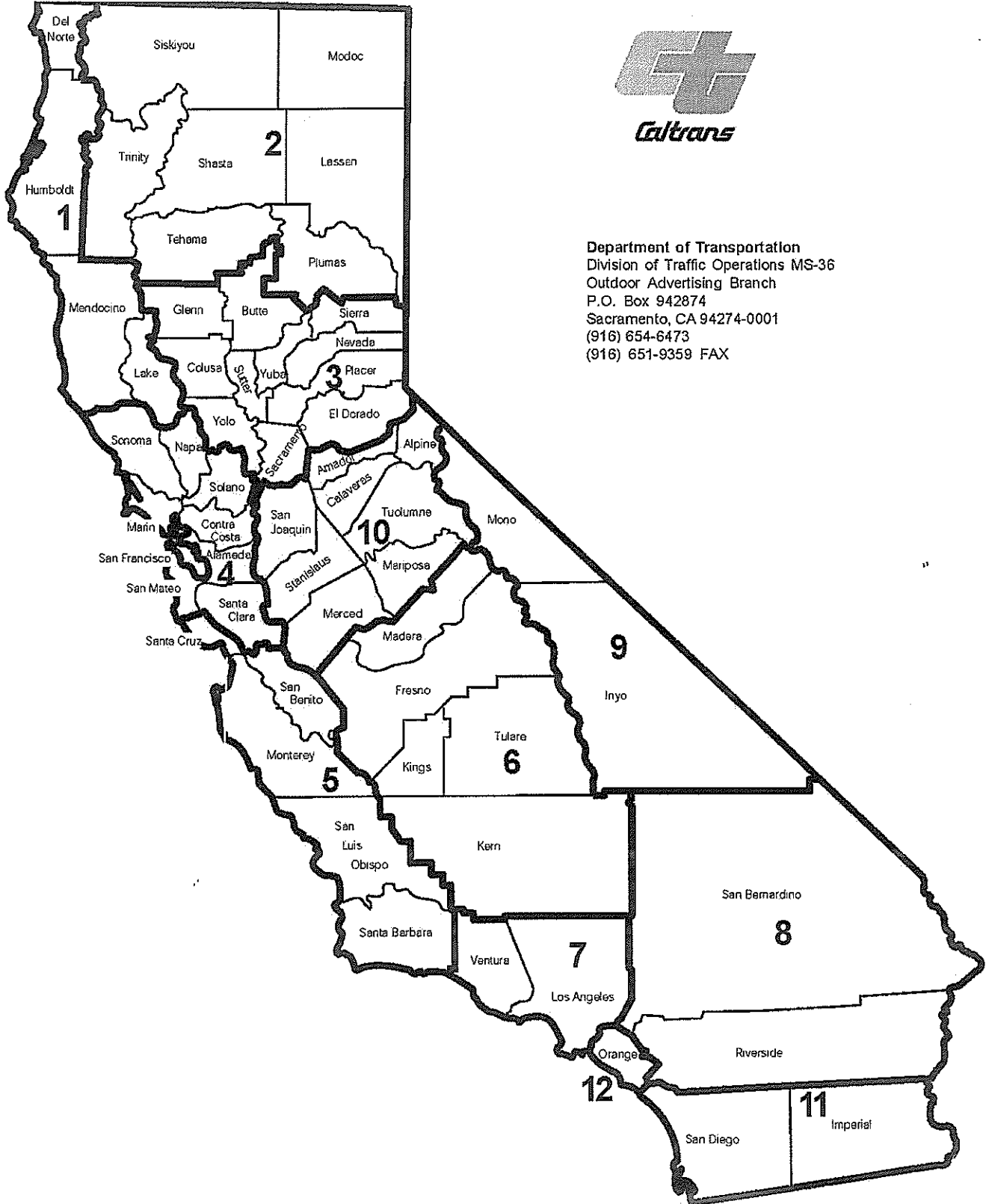
Temporary Political Signs shall not be placed within the right-of-way of any highway, or be visible within 660 feet from the edge of the right-of-way of a classified "Landscaped freeway".

State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal. We are calling these provisions to your attention to avoid possible embarrassment to you and your supporters. Please pass this information along to those assisting in your campaign.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at the appropriate Outdoor Advertising District Office (See attached map for contact numbers).

Enclosure

STATE SIGN INFORMATION (Continued)



Department of Transportation
 Division of Traffic Operations MS-36
 Outdoor Advertising Branch
 P.O. Box 942874
 Sacramento, CA 94274-0001
 (916) 654-6473
 (916) 651-9359 FAX