

PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS, INC. – GREENBOOK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 17, 2022

Presiding: LANCE GRINDLE

1. **Called to Order: 9:32 a.m.**
2. **Self-Introduction:**

Voting Members & Alternates

1	Alex Salazar	T	City of Irvine
2	Charles Chen	T	County of Orange – Public Works
3	Curt Gilley	T	Terrain Engineering Inc
4	Dan Peterson	T	AGCC
5	Elmer Datuin	T	County of Riverside
6	David Mitchell	T	Member at Large
7	Dickie Fernandez	T	Orange County Sanitation District
9	Omar Moheize	T	City of Burbank
8	Anthony Howard	T	County of Los Angeles – Sanitation District
9	Chris Solis	T	County of Ventura – Public Works
10	Vinh Tran	T	County of Orange – Public Works
11	Don Vivant	T	AGCC
12	Armen Avazian	T	City of Glendale – Public Works
13	Edward Arrington	T	City of Los Angeles
14	Raffie Yeremian	T	ECA
15	Edgar Mercado	T	City of Los Angeles – Dept of Water & Power

Other Participants

1	Ana Varela	T	BNI
2	Andy DaSilva	T	Orange County Sanitation District
3	Brian Fung	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
4	Chris Rave	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
5	David Badgley	T	Badgley and Associates
6	David Diaz	T	Griffith Company
7	David Gallagher	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
8	Gean Na	T	Concrete Pipe Association
9	Irene Chia	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
10	Joel Ellazar	T	BNI
11	Phil Phan	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
12	Rodolpho Garduno	T	County of Los Angeles – Public Works
13	Scott Johnson	T	Ferreira Construction
14	Travis Antonissen	T	Advanced Drainage Systems
15	William Mahoney	T	BNI

(**denotes Member with Proxy, T denotes attendance via Teleconference)

3. **Establish a Quorum:** Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established at the beginning of the meeting with 16 voting members present, additional voting members attended after the start of the meeting.
4. **Distribute Agenda - Online**
5. **Approval of Minutes:** February 17, 2022 minutes approved
6. **Correspondence:**
 - Change No. requested for section 211-2 “Pickle Jar Test”

7. **Old Business:**

- Change log will be amended to reflect cancellation/withdrawal of Change no. 316 SM – Fiber Reinforced Asphalt Concrete.
- Virtual Greenbook Seminar is settled with speakers and supporting videos from contributing members. Lance and APWA are appreciative of all the support.

8. **New Business:**

- a) **APWA Co-Chairman's Report:** PWSI meeting is scheduled for April 21st at ECA Office and Virtual.
- b) **Secretary's Report:** Roster updates are in progress. Rosters needed for the Greenbook, Standard Plans and Watchbook. Agencies amending voting members must send a signed letter to PWSI, care of BNI.
- c) **Vice Chair Communication Report:** No Report.
- d) **Vice Chair Editorial Report:** No Report.

Greenbook Subcommittees:

- e) **Surface Materials and Methods Subcommittee Report:** Vinh Tran reported that:
 - The **Geosynthetics task force** still working on edits received for change 303 SM.
 - The **asphalt task force** met and continuing work on the revised language for the CR Specification. Additional data needed on Change no. 315 SM – MAC 15TR, before voting on that item.
 - The **concrete ad hoc task force** received comments from Erik Updyke on proposed changes of 304 SM. Change no. 314SM – Coarse Aggregate Gradation has been sent off to the Surface Committee for review and to be voted on next month in hopes of moving up to Editorial.
- f) **Underground Materials and Methods Subcommittee Report:** Gene Na reported:
 - Single document file of Change No. 284 Part 5 may be completed by end of March.
 - Change No. 318 led by Dickie Fernandez is still in the works with nothing submitted yet. Sharing of the style guide recommended to teach people how to write in very good Greenbook style language.
 - Change no. request submitted regarding the pickle jar test. A proposal draft to be submitted to group.
- g) **Standard Plans Subcommittee Report:** Stacy Delong as alternate for Alex Salazar reported NO new updates.
- h) **General Provisions Subcommittee Report:** NO REPORT
- i) **Editorial Standards Subcommittee Report:** NO REPORT
- j) **Greenbook Retention Subcommittee Report:** Edward Arrington reported that the next meeting with Caltrans is this afternoon. He will reiterate the promise to have workshops and more outreach to local agencies that has not been done yet.
 - Director of APWA agreed to track national involvement and will reach out to other northern California chapters.
 - PWSI sent a letter to Steven Keck, acting director of Caltrans, regarding objection to their decision to not approve the use of Greenbook for construction of local roads and highways on the NHS system. (see attached)
 - This subcommittee is scheduling presentations of this topic and the various issues presented by Caltrans with the City of San Diego and Oakland. Central and northern cities have also been reached and had not been aware of Caltrans' position.
- k) **Landscaping and Irrigation Subcommittee Report:** David Gallagher happily reported to have met with 7 participants. LA City is participating and a Part 8 document will be shared for comments. Gean Na referred San Diego regional committee as a group to reach out to for additional support.

l) **Street Lighting and Traffic Systems Subcommittee Report:** Phil Phan is replacing Paul Lovie and working with Irene Chia. A lead is still needed for this subcommittee. Anyone interested can contact Phil Phan (pphan@dpw.lacounty.gov) or Irene Chia (ichia@dpw.lacounty.gov).

m) **Other New Business:** NONE

9. **General Discussion:** 2022 GREENBOOK VIRTUAL SEMINAR is April 25 through April 29. There is a \$100.00 charge for all 6 sessions. Link shared on chat

<http://southernca.apwa.net/EventDetails?id=24510>

10. **Next meeting: April 21, 2022**

11. **Adjourn: 10:28 a.m.**

Submitted by: Greenbook Committee Secretary
Bill Mahoney / Ana Varela
BNi Building News
990 Park Center Dr Ste E
Vista CA 92081
Office: (760) 734-1113

Members



Associated General Contractors of California



Engineering Contractors' Association



Southern California Contractors Association

Public Works Standards, Inc.
C/O BNI Publications Inc
990 Park Center Drive, Suite E
Vista, California 92081

Publications

Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Greenbook)

Standard Plans for Public Works Construction

Work Area Traffic Control (WATCH)

March 15, 2022

Mr. Steven Keck, Acting Director
State of California, Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Acting Director Keck:

**STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION
AKA "GREENBOOK"**

We are writing to you to request your assistance in utilizing the subject specification book for construction of roads and highways on the local National Highway System (NHS).

The Greenbook was first published in 1967 and has been used in local highway construction for over 40 years. This first edition of the Greenbook was the product of nearly four years of very intensive collaboration by a 400-person task force comprised of local government and construction industry leaders. The City and County of Los Angeles were major contributors to this effort and these two agencies were the first to adopt the Greenbook for their infrastructure improvements. To date, more than 200 other cities, counties, and agencies in the area have also adopted the Greenbook as their standard for public works construction specifications. Interest in the Greenbook has been worldwide, with copies being acquired and studied by public works officials throughout the United States, Canada, and many countries overseas.

The Greenbook is used by most of the largest local governments in California including the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, County of Orange, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, Ventura County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and City of Oakland, just to name a few. Further, results from Caltrans' very own survey conducted in early 2021, which was sent out to over 2/3 of the local agencies in the State of California, capture the extent of disruption that would be experienced by local agencies if the Greenbook is no longer allowed for use on the NHS. Results are available through Caltrans HQ - Office of Guidance and Oversight.

Caltrans approved the Greenbook in 1985 for construction on the NHS. Subsequent editions of the Greenbook have used the 1985 edition as a foundation for future editions. Future editions of the Greenbook have been modernized with the most up to date construction materials and methods. Billions of dollars have been spent on local infrastructure including streets, bridges, underground utilities, and drainage facilities on the NHS have been successfully constructed and approved by Caltrans over the last 40 years using the Greenbook specifications.

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In early 2021, Caltrans notified local governments that they would no longer approve the use of the Greenbook for construction of local roads and highways on the NHS system and that all future projects on the NHS must use Caltrans specifications regardless of local or federal funding. In April of 2021, agencies and contractors that support the Greenbook began a series of coordination meetings with Caltrans staff led by a Senior Construction Oversight Engineer from the HQ Division of Local Assistance. The meetings went dark for approximately 6 months until they were restarted in October by the Acting Chief of the Office of Guidance and Oversight, HQ - Division of Local Assistance. Today, the meetings are again being led by a Construction Oversight Program Manager of HQ - Division of Local Assistance. The intent of the meetings has been to discuss whether to allow the continued use of the Greenbook for local NHS construction. At a recent coordination meeting with Caltrans staff, attending representatives of local agencies were told Caltrans would not be considering the approval of the Greenbook as a stand-alone document in part due to the significant staffing resource required to do so. Instead, portions of this copyrighted book would need to be taken and incorporated into Section 77 of Caltrans Specifications as non-standard sections.

We have a set of concerns and objections to this decision and request that the Greenbook continue to be recognized as an alternate approved standard. The proposed approach of incorporating portions of the Greenbook into Section 77 will require the vetting of Caltrans' proposals by a reasonable number of agencies that will eventually need to use those sections to perform work on the NHS. In turn, Caltrans will need to review and respond to the responses and questions made by the local agencies. Such an approach will be laborious and take a considerable amount of time to arrange and complete thereby negating any perceived time savings and effort. However, since local agencies are already using the Greenbook, it would be much easier to look at what items, if any, need to be revised based upon Caltrans' review of the Greenbook itself. In presenting this perspective, we want to point out that these roadways have been and will continue to be maintained by local agencies using local funding. As such, it is better if one uses a standard for which local agencies are most familiar with in performing work on these roads.


The premise of Caltrans - and FHWA- seems to stem from a reading of Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §630.201, §630.205, and §625.3(a)(1) as referenced in the Survey mentioned above. Section 630 pertains to federal-aid projects on any roadway while Section 625 pertains to projects on the NHS. While there are unique requirements for federally funded projects, such as for the construction of a local bridge, the general description of standards required for projects, particularly on the NHS are found in CFR Section 625. While inferring to required standards, Title 23 CFR 625 has as its emphasis, roadway and traffic design, as reflected by Subsection 625.2.(a).(1)&(2), as well as the standards that are listed at the end of the section. As such, if anything, it speaks to the scope by which an evaluation of an alternate standard

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should be based on. As we have repeatedly said, elements that reside outside the roadway proper should not be under consideration for review as they are not the intent of the referenced CFR section. And as to the roadway proper itself, these roadways have been in existence for years and fully integrated into the built environment of each community and so no geometrical considerations should apply, if that would even be possible. As such, the only thing left would perhaps be a new roadway extension, or a significant realignment of an existing roadway, etc, for which roadway geometry and associated traffic pattern change are to be taken into account. It is on this latter point that we request work with FHWA to reassess this effort from a practical and functional perspective and hopefully conclude that the idea of having the Greenbook be considered as an alternate standalone standard for the relevant areas mention above is the best way to move forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, we look forward to future dialogue regarding this very important issue. If you have any questions, please contact myself at tolmos@cityofpasadena.net or at (626) 744-4233. You may also contact Dan Peterson, Co-Chair Greenbook Committee at djpc033@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Tony Olmos, P.E.
President
Public Works Standards, Inc.