

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
OFFICE ENGINEER
1727 30th STREET, MS-43
P.O. Box 168041
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-8041
PHONE (916) 227-6230
FAX (916) 227-6151
TTY 711



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

March 11, 2010

Dear Transportation Construction Community:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) strives to provide our industry partners with convenient and cost effective access to construction contract advertising information and bid documents. For many years, in addition to providing paper bid documents, we've posted electronic copies of the contract plans and specifications on the Office Engineer website (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/>). At your request, we've added the Bid Item Search, Look Ahead Report, Opt-In, Prime Advertising and other innovative tools to our website to assist you with bidding on our construction contracts.

While providing these services to the industry, Caltrans must also focus on reducing its cost to produce the bid documents and eliminate waste. To achieve this goal, Caltrans began Electronic Advertising (E-Ad) in August 2009 with addenda sent by email only. Beginning in October 2009, Caltrans advertised, bid opened and awarded six E-Ad pilot contracts in which the bid documents (plans, specifications and bid books) were provided at no cost through the Office Engineer website using our Caltrans Connect feature. No paper copies were provided. The industry feedback during these pilot projects was very positive and encouraged Caltrans to continue with E-Ad projects.

Accordingly, we believe the industry is ready to join us in fully implementing Electronic Advertising. Beginning with April 5, 2010 advertisements, all Caltrans construction contracts exceeding \$250,000 will utilize the E-Ad process. Initially, we will mail bidders a bid book and envelope at no cost; however paper copies of the plans and Notice to Bidders will not be provided. Request bid books at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php. A tutorial for using E-Ad is at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/connect/about.php>. If you need technical assistance with E-Ad, please contact Rich Stone at (916) 227-6185 or by email to Rich.Stone@dot.ca.gov.

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We are constantly looking for ways to improve our services to you and welcome your comments.

Sincerely,



JOHN C. MCMILLAN
Deputy Division Chief,
Office Engineer
Division of Engineering Services