

SECTION 1
PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

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SECTION 1

PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

1-1 PURPOSE

These Improvement Standards provide minimum standards for improvements to be built within County rights of way or easements, and private works that may be required as a condition for any entitlement granted by the County under Title 8 of the Yolo County Code. In particular these Improvement Standards are intended to serve as the “County Standards” referenced in Title 8, Chapter 1, Article 7. “Design Standards” of the Yolo County Code, which states “To ensure that land development shall reflect the best interests of the people of the County, all developments pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and all improvements installed in, over, or under any existing or proposed right-of-way, easement, or parcel of real property of the County in satisfaction of a condition of a variance or use permit issued pursuant to the zoning regulations (Chapter 2 of this title), or required by order of the Board of Supervisors made in a proceeding for amending said zoning regulations by changing the boundaries of any zone, or required in connection with the issuance of a building permit, shall conform to the standards of design of this chapter and the County Standards as set forth by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. (§ 6.40, Ord. 546, as amended by §§ 1 and 3, Ord. 617)” Project-specific conditions of approval or mitigation monitoring and reporting program requirements approved by the Board of Supervisors may result in more stringent requirements than provided for in these Improvement Standards.

These Standards are necessary to provide for coordinated development of required facilities to be used by the public. These Standards shall serve to regulate and guide the design, preparation of plans, construction, repair, and alteration of: streets, highways, alleys, site access, storm drainage, sewerage, water supply facilities, street lighting and related public improvements, and set guidelines for similar private works. These Standards do not apply to improvements to be dedicated to, and maintained by jurisdictions with their own standards including any Community Service District, City, State, or other governmental entity.

1-2 STANDARDS UPDATE

These Improvement Standards replace the “Yolo County Improvement Standards and Specifications” dated February 1990.

1-3 REFERENCED STANDARDS

These standards reference the Caltrans Standard Specifications, latest edition, and Caltrans Standard Plans for Construction of Local Streets and Roads, Caltrans Highway Design Manual, and Caltrans Traffic Manual, latest editions, the Standard Plans for Public Works Construction (“Greenbook”, published by BNi Building News), and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials (AASHTO) “A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets” latest edition. Caltrans documents can be downloaded from the Engineering Service Center web site at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc>.

1-4 STANDARD FORMS

Standard forms are provided for reference and use by Department staff, Consultants and Developers. Many of these forms will require editing based on project specific requirements.

1-5 INTENDED USE

These Improvement Standards are intended to provide minimum standards. The appropriate use of these Standards is the responsibility of the registered engineer in responsible charge of the design. Nothing in

these Standards is intended to relieve the Developer or Design Engineer from the responsibility for providing a complete design, or specifying more stringent requirements when site conditions warrant.

At the County Engineer's discretion, these Standards may be modified if the Standards do not appear to be in the County's best interest. On a case-by-case basis, and for sound engineering reasons, minor modifications may be made to these Standards. In all such cases, the County Engineer shall approve any such variations from these Standards.

1-6 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The portions of these Standards that define the materials, work methods, quality and quantity for construction of any publicly maintained improvements shall apply to all construction contracts whether public or private. Public contracts include contracts typically between the County of Yolo and a construction contractor. Private contracts include contracts typically between a private party, such as a Developer, Land Owner, Home Owner, etc., and a construction contractor.

1-7 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR

All contractors performing work on improvements to be reviewed and approved for acceptance and maintenance by the County of Yolo, shall be constructed by Contractor(s) duly licensed, bonded and insured in accordance with the laws of the State of California and County requirements.

1-8 ADDENDA OR FUTURE UPDATES

Future addenda or updates to these Standards will be noted in the "Addenda and Updates" sheet preceding this Section. The Improvement Standards on the County's website will be periodically updated, or new hard copies can be purchased directly from the Department.

1-9 OMISSIONS

Any items or situations not included in these Improvement Standards shall be designed in accordance with general standard of care for engineering practice, as approved by the County Engineer. The following may be used as guidelines: Standard Plans for Public Works Construction ("Greenbook"), the Caltrans "Highway Design Manual," the Caltrans Standard Plans for Construction of Local Streets and Roads, and Caltrans "Traffic Manual," latest editions.

1-10 DEFINITIONS

When the following terms or titles are used in these Standards or in any document or instrument where these Standards govern, the intent and meaning shall be as herein defined:

- A. **Board** – Shall mean the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.
- B. **Caltrans (or State) Standard Plans or Caltrans Standard Specifications** – Shall mean the Standard Specifications and Standard Plans of the State of California, Department of Transportation, latest edition.
- C. **Design Engineer** – Shall mean any person or persons, firm, partnerships or corporation legally authorized to practice civil, mechanical or electrical engineering in the State of California as set forth in Section 6700 et. Seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State (Professional Engineers Act) who prepares or submits improvements plan and specifications to the Department for approval.

- D. County Code** – Shall mean the Yolo County Code as adopted and periodically updated by the Board of Supervisors. The Yolo County Code is available online at the County website.
- E. County Engineer** – An engineer designated by the Director to act as County’s plan approval agent who is legally authorized to practice civil engineering in the State of California as set forth in Section 6700 et. Seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State. (Professional Engineers Act)
- F. Department** – shall mean the County of Yolo, Department of Planning and Public Works, including wherever used in reference specifications or plans.
- G. Developer** – Shall mean any person or persons, firms, partnership, corporation or, combination thereof, financially responsible for the work involved.
- H. Development** – Shall mean the act, process, or result of any land division, land grading, utility installation, street or building construction on property.
- I. Digital Submittals or Electronic Files** – Shall mean data files prepared using appropriate software saved and transmitted in their native format for Department use and records.
- J. Director** – Shall mean the Director of the Department of Planning and Public Works acting either directly or through an authorized representative.
- K. “Greenbook” Standard Specifications and Standard Plans** – Shall mean Standard Specifications, latest edition, and Standard Plans for Public Works Construction, latest edition, written by Public Works Standards, Inc., published by **BNI**® Building News.
- L. Inspector** – Shall mean the County’s field representative observing the Developer’s construction activities.
- M. Laboratory** – Shall mean a Caltrans-certified testing agency or testing firm that has been approved by the Planning and Public Works Department to perform quality control testing of construction performed in the County right of way.
- N. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)** – An environmental mitigation program administered by the Department in accordance with County Code or Conditions of Approval adopted by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.
- O. Public Works Agency** – Shall mean the Department of Planning and Public Works of the County of Yolo.
- P. Special District or Community Service District** – Shall mean a district formed for the purposes of providing public services as defined in the formation documents, which may include, but are not limited to sewer, water, storm drainage, fire, and street lighting services, and governed by an independent Board of Directors.
- Q. Standard Construction Specifications** – Shall mean the latest of the “Greenbook” Standard Specifications (latest edition), and as modified, governing the construction of roads, streets, sanitary sewers, storm drainage, concrete structures, water supply, traffic signals, street lighting and other facilities within the County of Yolo to be accepted by the Department or other Agency for maintenance or operation; also including private grading, erosion control, drainage, and landscaping.

- R. Standard Drawings** – Shall mean the standard drawings included in these Design Standards and the referenced Standard Plans for other details not included herein.
- S. State** – As used in the State Specifications, shall mean County of Yolo.
- T. Urban Area** – Shall mean any area planned for urban development by the appropriate General Plan.