

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

50 HIGUERA STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415  
PHONE (805) 549-3101  
FAX (805) 549-3329  
TDD (805) 549-3259  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/>



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

November 28, 2005

Debbie Bulger  
Mission: Pedestrian  
1603 King Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Ms. Bulger:

**AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS AT MISSION STREET IN SANTA CRUZ**

This is in response to your November 18, 2005 letter regarding the replacement of audible pedestrian signals on Mission Street in Santa Cruz. The Department of Transportation (Department) is interested in ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian signals for all of the communities we serve. We are not opposed to new and innovative products that are reliable and cost efficient.

The verbal pedestrian signals and locator-tone pedestrian push buttons installed as part of the Mission Street widening project were part of a demonstration test. Unfortunately these devices were problematic, with failures occurring at every intersection. In order to continue to provide auditory information the units had to be replaced. The audible "chirping" devices that are currently in place have been in use throughout the state for more than 20 years and have proven to be very reliable. They satisfy the guidelines for Accessible Pedestrian Signals in the Federal Highway Administration's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Department will consider installing the newer verbal model when that product is approved for use on state highways and funding is available. To achieve approval the vendor must follow the Department's New Product Evaluation procedure. This process ensures that new products will be reliable and cost efficient.

We apologize for the lack of notice given prior to the modification of the signals on Mission Street. However, we did attempt to contact Veronica Elsea to notify her in advance of the modification, as she was instrumental in the original installation of the verbal devices.

Debbie Bulger  
November 28, 2005  
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Thank you for your continued support of pedestrian safety and accessibility. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Julie Gonzalez, Electrical Operations, at (805) 549-3048.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Gonzalez".

STEVE PRICE  
Deputy District Director  
Maintenance and Operations

c: Thomas Leavitt  
thomas@thomasleavitt.org

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