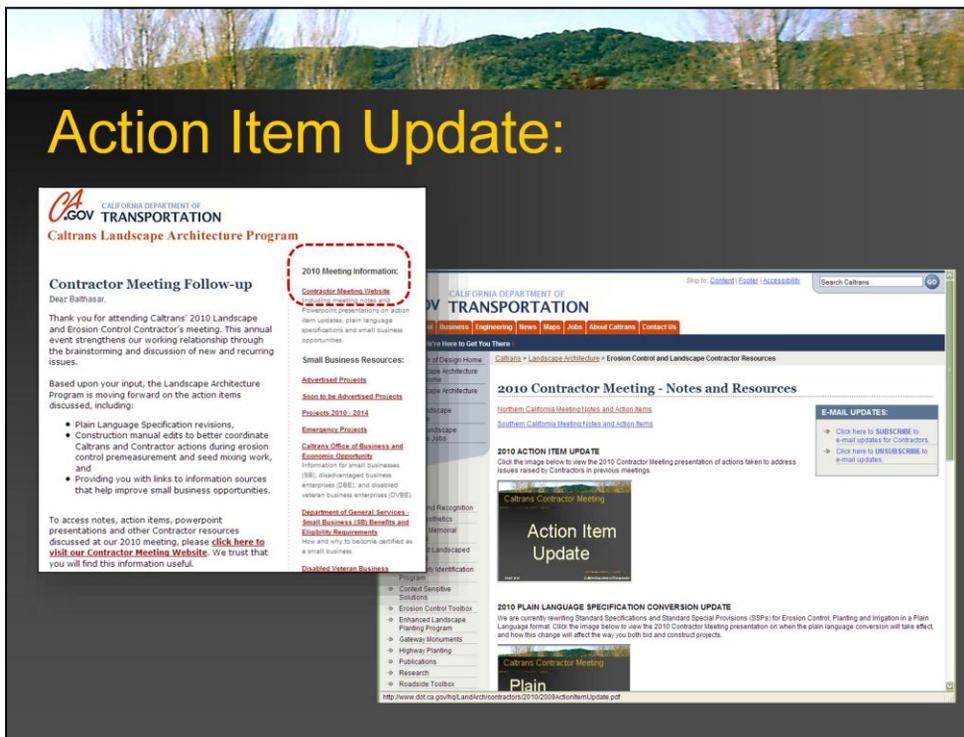




Caltrans Contractor Meeting

Action Item Update

Greg Balzer's review of previous Action Items



As we begin our discussion on last year's action items, I'd like to highlight a few developments following last year's meeting that hopefully you have found helpful.

In an effort to leverage technology to improve communication between Caltrans and our Contractors, we followed-up last year's meeting with an email, shown above that besides thanking you for your attendance and input, also provided a link to a website dedicated to providing you with up-to-date, easily accessible information regarding meeting action items, business development resources, and things of special interest to our contractors such as draft versions of our 2010 Erosion Control and Planting specifications.

Do any of you remember receiving this email?

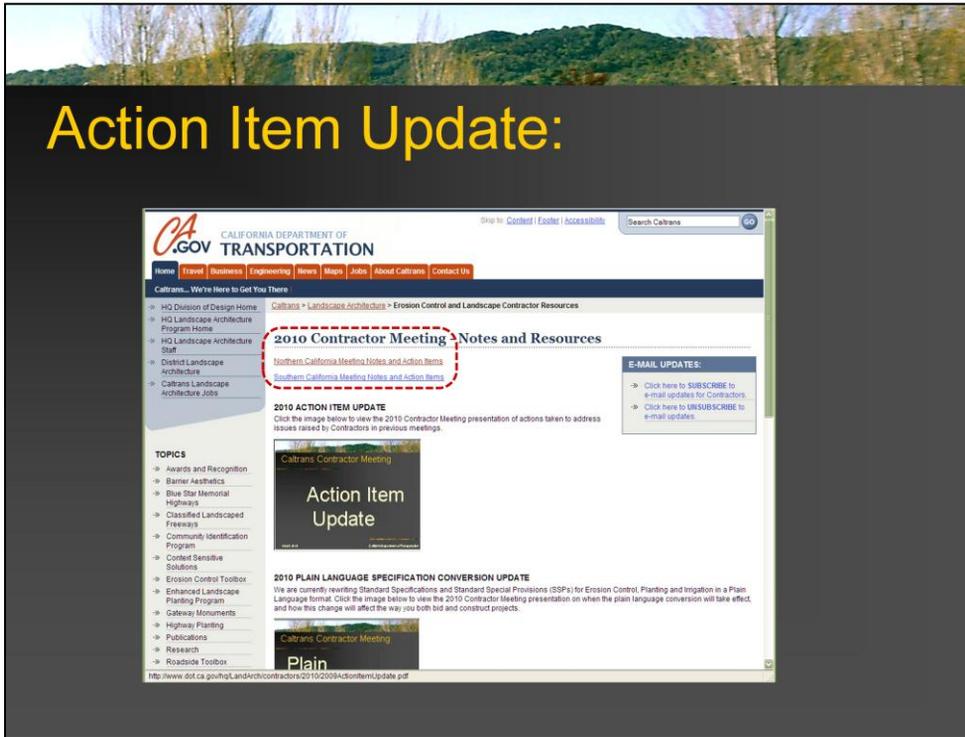
Did you find it helpful?

We sent out 39 of these emails, and 20 were opened which is over 50%, which is a good showing considering that the typical email open rate for this industry is about a 1/3.

By clicking on the link in that top right-hand corner of the email, you are whisked to the Caltrans contractor webpage, as shown on the right hand side above.

Next slide

Action Item Update:



Here is a quick view of how the Contractor website looked last March. Every year I get requests from Contractors who miss this meeting, or from product vendors who would like to know what issues were discussed.

Please note at the bottom of the page that we are posting the Powerpoint presentation from the meeting immediately following the meeting to help address this request.

At the top of this page, please notice that we are posting the meeting notes and action items identified during the meeting. I try to post the meeting notes and action items immediately following the meeting – last year these were posted in March – so you are able to see what we are working on – based upon the meeting discussions.

Action Items

With that said, let's recap last year's meeting action items...

Next Slide...



Action Item Update

- ✓ Business Development
- ✓ 2010 Specs
- ✓ Compost Specification

Four issues highlighted at last year's Contractor meeting.

1. Desire for more business development leads and information.
2. 2010 Specification review and feedback.
3. Possible compost specification edits.



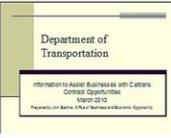
Action Item Update:

Business Development

Let's look at business development opportunities and potential leads first.

Business Development:

SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WITH CALTRANS
Caltrans is committed to promoting Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (UDBE) participation in the procurement and contracting process. Click the presentation graphic below to view a presentation on small business contracting opportunities with Caltrans.



SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

- [Advised Projects](#)
- [Soon to be Advised Projects](#)
- [Projects 2010 - 2014](#)
- [Emergency Projects](#)
- [Caltrans Office of Business and Economic Opportunity](#)
Information for small businesses (SB), disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE), and disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBE).
- [Department of General Services - Small Business \(SB\) Benefits and Eligibility Requirements](#)
How and why to become certified as a small business.
- [Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise \(DVBE\) Program](#)
Provides an overview of DVBE Program rules, regulations, and potential violations to avoid.
- [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Program](#)
Program Information, including program objectives and certification criteria.
- [DBE Statewide Database](#)
Statewide database for all Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms.
- [California Department of Industrial Relations Small Business \(SB\) Portal](#)
How to start a small business, and how to comply with state laws regarding workplace safety, labor law and workers' compensation.

You asked for leads, and we provided them.

Here is a screen capture of the Contractor website.

You can see that we have provided an electronic version of Ann Blazina's presentation regarding small business opportunities at Caltrans. This presentation is available for download, and is filled with a number of links to small business resources.

Below Ann's presentation, you can also see that we have provided links to additional resources. I'm not going to promise that the information presented here is an "easy read" as most small and disadvantaged business development program documents include a lot of technical terms, but Caltrans is committed to increasing participation by SB, DBE and DVBC contractors, and if you invest the time required to understand these sites, it will be time well spent.

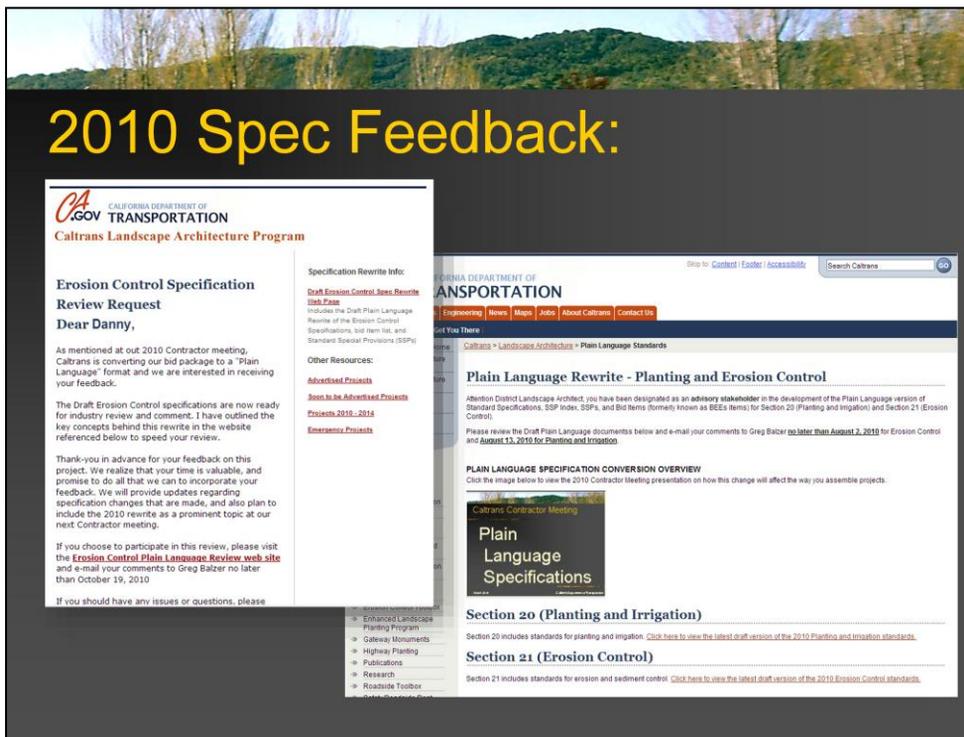
We also posted links to other various business development resources, including a number of links to projects currently out-to-bid that you can "opt-in" to advertise your professional services. Chris Johnson will provide a live click-through of these resources later in the meeting.



Action Item Update:

2010 Spec Feedback

Another action item from last year's meeting was to solicit feedback on the 2010 specification development effort.



Does the email request on the left-hand side above look familiar?

The email on the left provided a link to a Contractor website on the right that provided access to the Draft 2010 specifications for Erosion Control and Highway Planting.

In early October 2010 we sent out notification that our 2010 Erosion Control Specifications were available for your review in comment.

Notified - 40

Opened – 13

Feedback – 3 of you statewide.

I received some good questions – mostly about what moved where, and responded in detail via email.

Thank-you for your feedback.

In early November 2010 we sent out notification that our 2010 Planting and Irrigation specifications were available.

Notified - 40

Opened – 16

Feedback – The only feedback that I received was that you needed more time to review the documents. More time was provided, but I never saw any comments, feedback, or corrections.

Has anybody here read the 2010 Highway Planting specifications?

Do you have any further comments that you would like to share?



Another action item from last year’s meeting was to examine the “fit” between our current Compost and Mulch specifications and the materials available from “industry”. We have heard some feedback that the materials specified have been difficult to locate.



In a nutshell, here is a description of the issue:

1. Mulch – we have been specifying that SOME mulch products be composted.
2. Compost – we have been specifying some coarse woody compost materials that many considered to be mulch AND basically were too woody to pass the Stability and Maturity tests for compost.

We had good reasons to specify things this way – but frankly this approach just didn't work. It was confusing (is it mulch or compost) and the materials just were not available.

Compost and Mulch:

Mulch = Mulch
Compost = Compost

The slide features a dark grey background with a light-colored landscape image at the top. A black silhouette of a person stands on the left, pointing upwards towards a glowing yellow lightbulb. The text 'Mulch = Mulch' and 'Compost = Compost' is written in a light yellow font on the right side of the slide.

Specify Mulch as Mulch, Compost and Compost.

Don't require woody mulch to be composted.

Call Mulch – mulch.

Call Compost – compost.

If a product is required to be composted – call it all compost.

If a designer required a product that is a mixture of compost and woody material – specify a mixture of compost and mulch.



Compost and Mulch:



20-7.02D(6) Mulch

20-7.02D(6)(a) General
Mulch must not contain more than 0.1 percent of deleterious materials such as rocks, glass, plastics, metals, clods, weeds, weed seeds, coarse objects, sticks larger than the specified particle size, salts, paint, petroleum products, pesticides or other chemical residues harmful to plant or animal life.

20-7.02D(6)(b) Tree Bark
Tree bark must be derived from Douglas fir, redwood, or cedar species.
Tree bark must be ground so that a minimum of 95 percent of the material by volume is less than 2 inches and no more than 30 percent by volume is less than 1 inch.

20-7.02D(6)(c) Wood Chips
Wood chips must be derived from clean wood and not contain leaves or small twigs.
Wood chips must have an average thickness of 1/16-inch, length between 1/2-inch and 3-inches, and a width 3/8-inch or greater. At least 95 percent of wood chips, by volume, must conform to these dimensions.

20-7.02D(6)(d) Shredded Bark
Shredded bark must be a blend of loose, long, thin wood or bark pieces derived from trees with a high length-to-width ratio. A minimum of 95 percent of the wood strands must have lengths from 2 to 8 inches, with a width and thickness from 1/8 to 1-1/2 inches.

20-7.02D(6)(e) Tree Trimmings
Tree trimmings must be derived from chipped trees and may contain leaves and small twigs.
Tree trimmings must have a particle size so that a minimum of 95 percent of the material by volume is less than 3 inches and no more than 30 percent by volume is less than 1 inch.

Here's the new Mulch spec – no composting required.

Compost and Mulch:

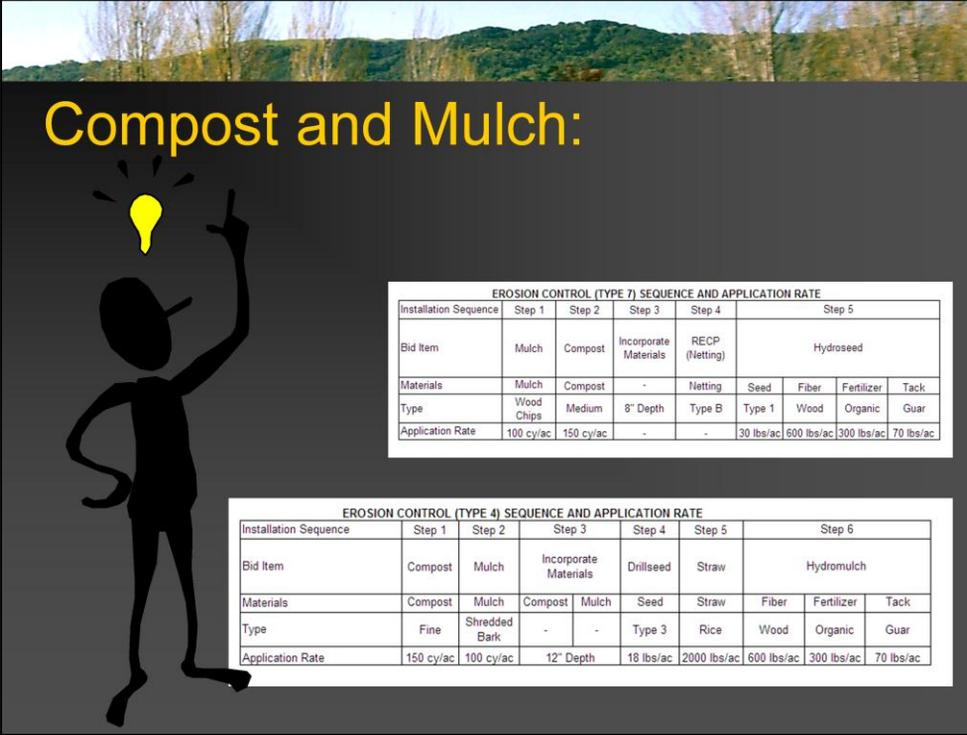


Property	Compost Properties		
	Test method ^{1,2}	Requirement	
pH	TMECC 04.11-A Elastomeric pH 1.5 slurry method	6-8.5	
Soluble salts	TMECC 04.10-A Electrical conductivity 1.5 Slurry Method dS/m (mmhos/cm)	0-10	
Moisture content	TMECC 03.09-A Total Solids & Moisture at 70 ± 5 °C % Wet weight basis	30-60	
Organic matter content	TMECC 03.07-A Loss-On-Ignition Organic Matter Method (LOI) % Dry weight basis	40-100	
Maturity	TMECC 05.05-A Germination and vigor	--	
	Seed emergence	80 or above	
	Seedling vigor	80 or above	
Stability	% Relative to positive control		
	TMECC 03.08-B Carbon dioxide evolution rate mg CO ₂ -C/g OM per day	8 or below	
Particle size: fine compost	TMECC 02.02-B Sample sieving for aggregate Size classification % dry weight basis	min	max
	Pass 5/8 inch sieve	95%	--
	Pass 3/8 inch sieve	70%	--
	Maximum particle length: 6 inches		
Particle size: medium compost	TMECC 02.02-B Sample sieving for aggregate Size classification % dry weight basis	min	max
	Pass 2 inch sieve	95%	--
	Pass 1 inch sieve (minimum 70% retained)	--	30%
	Maximum particle length: 6 inches		
Particle size: coarse compost	TMECC 02.02-B Sample sieving for aggregate Size classification % dry weight basis	min	max
	Pass 2-1/2 inch sieve	99%	--
	Pass 3/8 inch sieve (minimum 60% retained)	--	40%
	Maximum particle length: 6 inches		
Pathogen	TMECC 07.01-B Salmonella < 3 MPN per 4 grams, dry weight basis	pass	
Pathogen	TMECC 07.01-B Fecal coliform bacteria < 1000 MPN per gram, dry weight basis	pass	

Here's the new compost spec.

It includes fine, medium and coarse compost.

I left the coarse option in because that is what is required by our Compost Filter Sock SSP – and I have been told that it is indeed available.



Compost and Mulch:

Installation Sequence	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5			
Bid Item	Mulch	Compost	Incorporate Materials	RECP (Netting)	Hydrosed			
Materials	Mulch	Compost	-	Netting	Seed	Fiber	Fertilizer	Tack
Type	Wood Chips	Medium	8" Depth	Type B	Type 1	Wood	Organic	Guar
Application Rate	100 cy/ac	150 cy/ac	-	-	30 lbs/ac	600 lbs/ac	300 lbs/ac	70 lbs/ac

Installation Sequence	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3		Step 4	Step 5	Step 6		
Bid Item	Compost	Mulch	Incorporate Materials		Drillseed	Straw	Hydromulch		
Materials	Compost	Mulch	Compost	Mulch	Seed	Straw	Fiber	Fertilizer	Tack
Type	Fine	Shredded Bark	-	-	Type 3	Rice	Wood	Organic	Guar
Application Rate	150 cy/ac	100 cy/ac	12" Depth		18 lbs/ac	2000 lbs/ac	600 lbs/ac	300 lbs/ac	70 lbs/ac

Here's the final piece of the puzzle.

If a designer wants a mixture of compost and mulch, they will simply specify the use of BOTH products.