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April 26, 2010

Mr. Kurt Siggard
Executive Director
Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada
6060 Sunrise Vista Drive, Suite 1990
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

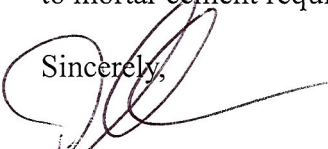
Dear Mr. Siggard:

This letter is to confirm that the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) existing Specifications do not require the use of supplementary cementitious material (SCM) for mortar used in masonry work.

Caltrans Standard Specification Section 90-2.01, Cementitious Materials, contemplates use of a blend of portland cement and SCM as the cementitious material, unless otherwise specified. Caltrans Standard Specification Section 51-1.135, Mortar, states that mortar "...shall be composed of portland cement, sand, and water proportioned and mixed as specified in this Section 51-1.135." In this case, the requirements of Standard Specification Section 51-1.135 govern the requirements for mortar used in masonry work. As such, current Caltrans specifications do not require that SCM be used for mortar in masonry work.

I hope this clarifies Caltrans' interpretation of our specifications in light of recent changes to reduce the environmental footprint of our projects. At this time, there are no significant changes to mortar cement requirements. If you have questions, please contact me at (916) 227-7016.

Sincerely,



DANIEL H SPEER
Chief
Office of Structural Materials
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Division of Engineering Services

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