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**MAP-21 & The Buy America Challenge for Utilities**  
**Wednesday December 11, 2013**

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# Presentation Goals

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**Goal**

**Overview**

**AGENDA**



- Buy America's Impact to Utilities.**
- Caltrans' Response.**
- Contact Information and Links**

# Buy America's Impact to Utilities?

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- **Utilities, including many of their suppliers and vendors have not had to concern themselves with Buy America (BA) provisions in the past.**
- **Utilities deal with highly specialized equipment requiring precise tolerances.**
- **Utility materials range in the thousands & have unique applications.**
- **Utility relocation work for transportation projects amounts to a very small portion of the total work a utility company produces.**

## **Buy America's Impact to Utilities?**

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- **With the accumulation of systems over the years, larger utilities don't necessarily have standardized infrastructures and sometimes require non-standard materials.**
- **Utilities may have years of inventory at stockyards that have already been purchased and delivered.**
- **Materials that are subject to BA are often far more expensive than the non-domestic counterparts and often have longer lead times.**
- **Fabricators may impose batch limits that often far exceed the necessary quantity for the relocation project at hand.**
- **In the field adjustments and Utility exposure to liability.**

## Caltrans' Response

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- **Created a Buy America Task Force (BATF) comprised of diverse Caltrans staff, Cal. Division FHWA (Cal-FHWA) staff and California Transportation Commission staff.**
- **Caltrans created a temporary position and assigned a mid-level manager to serve as the Caltrans BA point person and project manager of BATF.**
- **BATF was generally the steering committee/think tank and played a substantial role with identifying risks, developing and validating action items, monitoring and statusing at-risk projects, and establishing goals.**

## Caltrans' Response

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- **Caltrans and Cal-FHWA developed an excellent working relationship which proved to be absolutely essential for a successful outcome.**
- **Caltrans and Cal-FHWA reached out to the major California utility companies to identify their challenges and to understand the types of materials. This was accomplished by multiple-day meetings pouring over material lists and review utility installation processes.**
- **Caltrans and Cal-FHWA reached out to local agencies and transportation authorities to understand their concerns.**

# Caltrans' Response

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## The BATF's general goals were as follows:

- **Reduce a relatively complex set of rules and guidelines into simple terms so that utility companies can quickly adapt BA provisions to their existing procurement processes and material tracking processes.**
- **Maintain the “spirit of Buy America”. This was achieved by focusing on all the “big steel items”, which is consistent with FWHA guidelines.**
- **Minimize “red tape”. To enhance application of Buy America with the local agencies and utilities, we sought to develop processes that were not overly burdensome. This was most relevant with material certification and demonstration of compliance.**

## Caltrans' Response (Continuation)

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- **The BATF, based on feedback from utilities and local agencies sought to develop two separate sets of guidelines:**
  1. **Guidelines for the implementation of BA provisions as they relate to utility materials, including clarifications.**
  2. **Guidelines and expectations for material certification as they relate utility materials.**
- **The BATF spent months hammering out the details with a vast number of stakeholders who all contributed to the development of the guidelines.**
- **On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Caltrans and Cal-FHWA finalized the guidelines and Caltrans.**



## Contact Information & Links

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- **Link to dedicated Caltrans BA page:**  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/buyamerica/>