

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 3

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March 22, 2012

0312-NSN0106
03-SUT-20-16.52/16.52

Dennis Hauck
City Of Yuba City Police Department
1545 Poole Blvd
Yuba City, CA 95993

Dear Mr. Hauck:

Traffic Safety reviewed the Traffic Study submitted for permit application #0312-NSN0106 for the installation of a red light enforcement camera (ARLE) at the intersection of Sut-20 and Plumas St. (PM 16.52) in the City of Yuba City. Based on their review of the permit application and Caltrans own collision data, Caltrans does not agree with the ARLE request.

Caltrans collision data does not support the installation of a camera at this location. From 2006 to our most recent data (8/31/11), we identify only one collision caused by a WB vehicle running the red light and striking another vehicle, and this collision was in 2008. In addition, our records only support 40 total collisions at this intersection during that time period. Of those 40 collisions, 7 involve an individual running a red light in one direction or another, and of those 7, one was a bicyclist and two were DUIs, and an ARLE system would not affect these collisions.

KD Anderson in their study, identifies several deficiencies at the intersection that, if improved, could reduce red light running. These include: below current standard signal head sizes, obstruction of signal heads by vegetation, insufficient # of signal heads, and poor alignment of signal heads with travel lanes. It would be irresponsible of Caltrans to not address these deficiencies and instead skip straight to installation of an ARLE system.

Although the posted speed for Sut-20 at Plumas St. is 35mph, the 85% speed for WB traffic is 39mph and the 85% speed for EB traffic is 41mph. The yellow time might be increased to 3.9 seconds to better match observed speeds, as insufficient yellow time can contribute to red light violations. This possibility will be researched.

There are a number of options available at this intersection which can be undertaken to reduce red light violations, and they should be pursued prior to a solution which is punitive in nature. Failure to do so contributes to the view that the reason for the ARLE installation is for revenue generation, not safety, and an ARLE should never be installed for the former.

City Of Yuba City Police Department

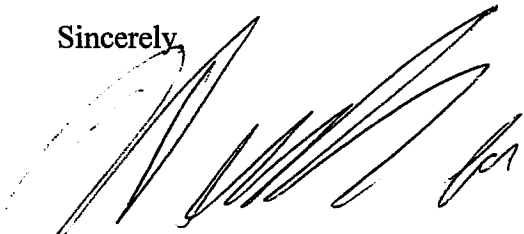
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For these reasons Caltrans cannot support the installation of an ARLE system. We will, however, work with Maintenance and Traffic Electrical to correct the deficiencies identified.

If you have any questions you may contact Heidi Menkick of this office at (530) 634-7625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Capaul', written over a light blue horizontal line.

BRUCE CAPAUL

Chief, Encroachment Permits Branch