

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SECTION 3900: MISCELLANEOUS (ADMINISTRATION)	SUBSECTION 3930 PUBLIC WORKS ADA COMPLIANCE POLICY
ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE: June 10, 2011	

3930.1 SUMMARY

Introduction

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that mandates equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities. The ADA prohibits discrimination in access to jobs, public accommodations, government services, public transportation, and telecommunications. The County of San Joaquin has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of its policies, programs, and facilities to determine the extent to which individuals with disabilities may be restricted in their access to County services and activities.

Federal Accessibility Requirements

The County is obligated to observe all requirements of Title I in its employment practices; Title II in its policies, programs, and services; any parts of Titles IV and V that apply to the County and its programs, services, or facilities; and all requirements specified in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) that apply to facilities and other physical holdings (e.g., streets, sidewalks, and pedestrian rights-of-way).

Title II has the broadest impact on the Public Works Department. Included in Title II are administrative requirements for all government entities employing more than fifty people. These administrative requirements are:

- Completion of a self-evaluation;
- Development of an ADA grievance procedure;
- Designation of a person who is responsible for overseeing Title II compliance; and
- Development of a transition plan if the self-evaluation identifies any structural modifications necessary for compliance.

State of California Accessibility Requirements

The State Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 mandates that all publicly funded buildings, structures, sidewalks, curbs, and related facilities shall be accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities. These regulations, often referred to as Title 24, pertain to County buildings, facilities, parks, sidewalks, and curb ramps that were constructed using state, county, or municipal funds or that are owned, leased, rented, contracted, or sublet by the County.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

3930.2 COUNTY WIDE COMPLIANCE

Compliance for public facilities, with the exception of those in the road right-of-way, is performed by the County Public Facilities Department. Grievances are handled through:

San Joaquin County
Risk Management, ADA Coordinator
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 330
Stockton, California 95202
(209) 468-3373

Grievance Procedures and Compliance for facilities within the County Road rights-of-way is accomplished through this Public Works Policy.

3930.3 PUBLIC WORKS AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT POLICY

Public Works Self Evaluation

San Joaquin County roadways are, in general, mostly rural without pedestrian facilities. The intent of this policy is to address those roadways within urbanized or metropolitan areas with existing curb, gutter and sidewalk or areas with drainage facilities and roadway profiles that will allow for sidewalk installation.

Since 2000, Public Works has completed multiple reviews of all roadways with pedestrian or curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements. From those reviews and from public input, Public Works maintains the following data:

- All locations with no or substandard accessibility ramps.
- Short gaps in sidewalks in otherwise fully improved areas.
- Through complaints and observations, locations where sidewalk vertical differential exceeds 3/4".

Transition Plan

A transition plan is required to correct known deficiencies and provide periodic reviews for changing conditions and standards. The San Joaquin County Public Works transition plan includes:

- 1) Project improvements through 2028 – any sidewalk locations without compliant accessibility ramps have been or are proposed for correction through a phased program of ramp construction/reconstruction or roadway rehabilitation projects.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- 2) New residential developments in urbanized areas are required to install drainage and walkway improvements meeting ADA requirements.
- 3) An annual repair and maintenance program repairs or replaces sidewalk with a vertical offset of more than 3/4" as funding allows. Repair lists are generated by citizen complaint and are prioritized based on severity and pedestrian volume.
- 4) When overlay or roadway reconstruction projects are scheduled, walkways are analyzed for ADA compliance and where possible, all vertical offsets greater than 3/4" are repaired and ADA ramps improved or replaced to current standards.
- 5) Upon request, San Joaquin County coordinates with the Regional Transit District to provide accessible bus stops.
- 6) County design standards for pedestrian facilities are reviewed biannually for compliance with the latest ADA standards.

The responsible person for San Joaquin County Public Works ADA Compliance is:

Engineering Services Manager
Design Engineering Division
1810 East Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, California 95205
(209) 953-7619

Grievance Procedures

ADA grievances are typically received at the main office number (209) 468-3000 and are forwarded to either the Maintenance Department (sidewalk repairs) or Design Division (ADA ramps). Close coordination occurs between the Divisions to address problems through the sidewalk repair program or contract resurfacing and reconstruction projects.