

General Conditions

A. Purpose

The SUDAS Design Manual has been prepared as a mechanism to implement uniform design standards, procedures, and regulations for the preparation of urban public improvement construction plans. Public improvements are those that meet any of the following:

1. Are initiated, designed, and constructed by or under the supervision of the Jurisdiction as a public improvement and maintained by the Jurisdiction.
2. Are initiated, designed, and constructed by the private owner/developer's private engineer and contractor. Upon acceptance of the improvements in the local Jurisdiction system, the improvements are maintained by the Jurisdiction.

Those improvements that require review and approval by the Jurisdiction, but will remain under private ownership, may be required to follow the SUDAS Design Manual. Each jurisdiction will decide on their own if these types of improvements are to follow the SUDAS Design Manual.

B. Intent of the SUDAS Design Manual

The values contained herein are considered fundamental concepts of basic design criteria that will serve as a framework for satisfactory design on new public improvements. The Project Engineer is encouraged to develop the design based on this framework and tailored to particular situations that are consistent with the general purpose and intent of the design criteria through the exercise of sound engineering judgment. Situations do arise that require special considerations. Therefore, to eliminate hardships or problems, the Jurisdiction may choose to vary the design criteria, procedures, and regulations. Should variances from the SUDAS Design Manual be required, the reason for the variance should be documented and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The design standards as described for new public improvements may not be attainable for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Each project of this type must be considered individually to determine if these design standards apply.

The SUDAS Design Manual and the Jurisdiction's supplemental design standards should be used for the preparation of all design plans for new improvements or major reconstruction submitted by the Project Engineer for Jurisdictional review. The Jurisdiction will review all submittals for general compliance with the specific design criteria, procedures, and regulations. Approval by the Jurisdiction does not relieve the Project Engineer from the responsibility of ensuring that the calculations, design, and plans are accurate or comply with the SUDAS Design Manual and fit the needs of a particular project.

The technical criteria not specifically addressed in the SUDAS Design Manual should follow the provisions of each jurisdiction's own policy or criteria.

C. Organization of the Manual

The SUDAS Design Manual is organized into fourteen chapters: General Provisions, Stormwater, Sanitary Sewers, Water Mains, Roadway Design, Geotechnical, Erosion and Sediment Control, Parking Lots, Utilities, Street Tree Criteria, Street Lighting, Sidewalks and Bicycle Facilities, Traffic Signals, and Trenchless Construction. The chapters include general information, report documentation, plan design, and federal and state requirements. The manual provides a compilation of readily available literature relevant to the design of urban facilities. The chapters are designed so that revisions can be made by updating the effected sections, as necessary, to reflect up-to-date engineering practices and changes in technology.

D. Jurisdiction and Agencies

The SUDAS Design Manual applies to participating local governments except where superseded by state and federal requirements.

E. Amendment and Revisions

The standards and criteria will be amended as new technology is developed and/or experience gained in the use of SUDAS Design Manual indicates a need for revision. The revisions will be adopted and jurisdiction engineers will monitor the performance and effectiveness of the design standards and will recommend changes and/or amendments through the SUDAS program as needed.

F. Enforcement Responsibility

Each jurisdiction is responsible for enforcing the adopted provisions of the SUDAS Design Manual.

G. Interpretation

The Jurisdiction will make the interpretation and application of the SUDAS Design Manual. The following classification of improvements and definitions are provided for a clearer understanding of general policy.

H. Innovation

Nothing in the SUDAS Design Manual limits the designer's use of new and innovative technology. Each alternative proposed utilizing new or unproven technology must receive approval prior to implementation. Materials meeting the technical specifications should be allowed unless specifically prohibited by the Jurisdiction.