

Your Rights and Benefits as a Displacee Under the Uniform Relocation Assistance Program (Mobile Home)

Introduction

In building a modern transportation system, the displacement of a small percentage of the population is often necessary. However, it is the policy of Caltrans that displaced persons shall not suffer unnecessarily as a result of programs designed to benefit the public as a whole.

Displaced individuals, families, businesses, farms, and nonprofit organizations may be eligible for relocation advisory services and payments.

This brochure provides information about available relocation services and payments. If you are required to move as the result of a Caltrans transportation project, a Relocation Agent will contact you. The Relocation Agent will be able to answer your specific questions and provide additional information.

Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 As Amended “The Uniform Act”

The purpose of this Act is to provide for uniform and equitable treatment of persons displaced from their homes, businesses, or farms by federal and federally assisted programs and to establish uniform and equitable land acquisition policies for federal and federally assisted programs.

49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 24 implements the “Uniform Act” in accordance with the following relocation assistance objective:

To ensure that persons displaced as a direct result of federal or federally-assisted projects are treated fairly, consistently and equitably so that such persons will not suffer dispro-portionate injuries as a result of projects designed for the benefit of the public as a whole.

While every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this booklet, it should be understood that it does not have the force and effect of law, rule, or regulation governing the payment of benefits. Should any difference or error occur, the law will take precedence.

Some Important Definitions...

Your relocation benefits can be better understood if you become familiar with the following terms:

Comparable Replacement: means a dwelling which is:

- (1) Decent, safe, and sanitary. *(See definition below.)*
- (2) Functionally equivalent to the displaced dwelling.
- (3) Adequate in size to accommodate the family being relocated.
- (4) In an area not subject to unreasonable adverse environmental conditions.
- (5) In a location generally not less desirable than the location of your displacement dwelling with respect to public utilities and commercial and public facilities, and reasonably accessible to the place of employment.
- (6) On land that is typical in size for residential development with typical improvements.

Decent, Safe and Sanitary (DS&S): Replacement housing must be decent, safe, and sanitary...which means it meets all of the minimum requirements established by federal regulations and conforms to applicable housing and occupancy codes. The dwelling shall:

- (1) Be structurally sound, weather tight, and in good repair.
- (2) Contain a safe electrical wiring system adequate for lighting and other devices.
- (3) Contain a heating system capable of sustaining a healthful temperature (of approximately 70 degrees) for a displaced person, except in those areas where local climatic conditions do not require such a system.

- (4) Be adequate in size with respect to the number of rooms and area of living space needed to accommodate the displaced person. The Caltrans policy is that there will be no more than two persons per room unless the room is of adequate size to accommodate the normal bedroom furnishings for the occupants.
- (5) Have a separate, well-lighted and ventilated bathroom that provides privacy to the user and contains a sink, bathtub or shower stall, and a toilet, all in good working order and properly connected to appropriate sources of water and to a sewage drainage system.

Note: *In the case of a housekeeping dwelling, there shall be a kitchen area that contains a fully usable sink, properly connected to potable hot and cold water and to a sewage drainage system, and adequate space and utility service connections for a stove and refrigerator.*

- (6) Contains unobstructed egress to safe, open space at ground level. If the replacement dwelling unit is on the second story or above, with access directly from or through a common corridor, the common corridor must have at least two means of egress.
- (7) *For a displaced person who is handicapped, be free of any barriers which would preclude reasonable ingress, egress, or use of the P.C. dwelling by such displaced person.*

Displaced Person or Displacee: Any person who moves from real property or moves personal property from real property as a result of the acquisition of the real property, in whole or in part, or as the result of a written notice from the agency to vacate the real property needed for a transportation project. In the case of a partial acquisition, Caltrans shall determine if a person is displaced as a direct result of the acquisition.

Residents **not lawfully present** in the United States are not eligible to receive relocation payments and assistance.

Relocation benefits will vary, depending upon the type and length of occupancy. As a residential displacee, you will be classified as either:

- An owner occupant of a residential property (includes mobile homes)
- A tenant occupant of a residential property (includes mobile homes and sleeping rooms)

Dwelling: The place of permanent or customary and usual residence of a person, according to local custom or law, including a single family house; a single family unit in a two-family, multi-family, or multi-purpose property; a unit of a condominium or cooperative housing project; a non-housekeeping unit; a mobile home; or any other residential unit.

Mobile Home: Generally refers to single, double or triple wide mobile home units. It does not include manufactured homes that are permanently affixed to the realty, as these are treated as single family dwellings. However, it can include certain trailers or recreational vehicles that are a primary residence depending on how they are permanently affixed to the real property.

Owner: A person is considered to have met the requirement to own a dwelling if the person purchases or holds any of the following interests in real property:

- (1) Fee title, a life estate, a land contract, a 99-year lease, oral lease including any options for extension with at least 50 years to run from the date of acquisition; or
- (2) An interest in a cooperative housing project which includes the right to occupy a dwelling; or
- (3) A contract to purchase any interests or estates; or
- (4) Any other interests, including a partial interest, which in the judgment of the agency warrants consideration as ownership.

Tenant: A person who has the temporary use and occupancy of real property owned by another.

Mobile Homes

If the mobile home **is not** acquired by Caltrans, the owner (regardless of who occupies it) of a mobile home is eligible for a payment to move the mobile home to a replacement piece of land based on an actual cost basis. This includes the cost to disassemble, move and reassemble any porches, decks, skirting and/or awnings. Additional costs may be eligible for reimbursement if Caltrans determines they are “actual, reasonable and necessary.” Some of these costs might be:

- Anchoring the unit to the new pad
- Additional axles or brakes on the mobile home that are required for transportation
- Temporary protection of an extra wide mobile home unit that must be split during the move
- Utility hook-ups to the unit (e.g. water, sewer, septic, electricity, gas) – if utilities are already available to the mobile home location (e.g. pad)
- Necessary repairs to meet local and state code
- Modifications necessary to meet Caltrans “decent, safe and sanitary” requirements
- Non-returnable entrance fee to the mobile home park – with limitations

The movement of the mobile home must be performed by a qualified mover and the payment is based on the lowest of two bids obtained by the owner of the mobile home and approved by Caltrans. Caltrans cannot pay for the move of the mobile home beyond 50 miles unless there are no suitable replacement pieces of land or mobile home parks within the 50-mile radius. Approval for a move beyond 50 miles must be obtained in advance of the move.

Moving Expenses

In addition to moving the mobile home, the occupant (regardless of who owns it) may be eligible for a payment to move their personal property – if you qualify as a “displaced person.”

The methods of moving and the various types of moving cost payments are explained below. Displaced individuals and families may choose to be paid on the basis of actual, reasonable moving costs and related expenses, or according to a fixed moving cost schedule. However, to ensure your eligibility and prompt payment of moving expenses, you should contact your Relocation Agent before you move.

You Can Choose Either:

Actual Reasonable Moving Costs – You may be paid for your actual reasonable moving costs and related expenses when a commercial mover performs the

move. Reimbursement will be limited to a move of 50 miles or less. Related expenses *may* include:

- Transportation
- Packing and unpacking personal property
- Disconnecting and reconnecting household appliances
- Temporary storage of personal property
- Insurance while property is in storage or transit

OR

Fixed Moving Cost Schedule – You may be paid on the basis of a fixed moving cost schedule. Under this option, you will not be eligible for reimbursement of related expenses listed above. The fixed schedule is designed to cover such expenses.

Examples (Year 2000 Rate):

4 Rooms - \$ 950
7 Rooms - \$1,550

If the furniture is moved with the mobile home, the amount of the fixed payment is based on Schedule B.

Examples (Year 2001 Rate):

4 Rooms - \$475
7 Rooms - \$625

Normally no additional payments for temporary storage, lodging, transportation or utility hook-ups of household appliances can be paid with the fixed move schedule. However, the occupants of the mobile home who choose to move back into the same mobile home at the new location, can receive an allowance for food and lodging during the move and set-up time. Also, utility hook-ups to the mobile home unit may be eligible for reimbursement.

Note: *Even if the mobile home is acquired by Caltrans, the occupant (regardless of who owns it) of the mobile home is still eligible for a payment to move their personal property.*

Replacement Housing Payments

The occupant of a mobile home unit may be eligible for a replacement housing payment. The type of Replacement Housing Payment (RHP) depends on whether you are an owner or a tenant *of the mobile home*, and the length of occupancy in the mobile home unit that is on property being acquired for a highway project.

If you are a qualified **owner occupant** of both the land and the mobile home for more than 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of your property – and the mobile home unit is acquired by Caltrans – you may be entitled to a RHP that consists of:

Price Differential, and

Mortgage Differential, and

Incidental Expenses;

OR

Rent Differential

You do not have to purchase and occupy another mobile home unit in order to receive your RHP – however, the new residential unit must meet the “decent, safe and sanitary” requirements.

If the mobile home is not acquired by Caltrans, you may still be eligible for a RHP to assist you with purchasing a replacement piece of land where you can move your mobile home.

It is **important** to know that if you **do not own both** the mobile home and the property, your RHP can be limited. You must work closely with your Relocation Agent to fully understand your eligibility.

If you are a qualified **owner occupant** of the mobile home for more than 90 days but less than 180 days, OR you are a qualified **tenant occupant** of the mobile home for at least 90 days, you may be entitled to a RHP as follows:

Rent Differential

OR

Down Payment Option

As the occupant of a mobile home – regardless of the length of time or your status as an owner or tenant – your payment will vary depending upon the following:

- If the mobile home unit was acquired by Caltrans
- The owner of the mobile home
- You will occupy the mobile home at the new location if it is moved
- You choose to occupy another type of unit such as a single family residence.

Length of occupancy simply means counting the number of days that you actually occupied the mobile home unit on the land that is being acquired by Caltrans – prior to the date of initiation of negotiations by Caltrans for the purchase of the property. The term “initiation of negotiations” means the date Caltrans makes the first personal contact with the owner of real property, or his/ her representative, to give him/her a written offer for the property to be acquired.

Note: *If you have been in occupancy less than 90 days before the initiation of negotiations and the property is subsequently acquired, or if you move onto the property after the initiation of negotiations and you are still in occupancy on the date of acquisition, you may or may not be eligible for a Replacement Housing Payment, based on the established affordability guidelines. Check with your Relocation Agent before you make any decision to vacate your property.*

For Owner Occupants of 180 Days or More

If you qualify as a 180-day owner occupant, you may be eligible – in addition to the fair market value of your property – for a Replacement Housing Payment that consists of a Price Differential, Mortgage Differential and/or Incidental Expenses.

The **Price Differential** payment is the amount by which the cost of a replacement dwelling exceeds the acquisition cost of the displacement dwelling. This payment

will assist you in purchasing a comparable decent, safe, and sanitary (DS&S) replacement dwelling. Caltrans will compute the maximum payment you may be eligible to receive.

In order to receive the full amount of the calculated price differential, you must spend at least the amount calculated by Caltrans on a replacement property.

The **Mortgage Differential** payment will reimburse you for any increased mortgage interest costs you might incur because the interest rate on your new mortgage for the real property, or the loan obtained for just the mobile home unit, exceeds the interest rate on the property acquired by Caltrans. The payment computation is complex because it is based on prevailing rates, your existing loan **and** your new loan. Also, a part of this payment may be prorated such as reimbursement for a portion of your loan origination fees and mortgage points.

To be eligible to receive this payment, the acquired property must have been encumbered by a *bona fide* mortgage which was a valid lien for at least 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiations.

You may also be reimbursed for any actual and necessary **Incidental Expenses** that you incur in relation to the purchase of your replacement property. These expenses may be those costs for title search, recording fees, credit report, appraisal report, and certain other closing costs associated with the purchase of property. You may also be eligible for certain costs related to the purchase of a new mobile home, such as sales tax or use tax payments, DMV title transfer fees, or building and transportation permits. You will not be reimbursed for any recurring costs such as prepaid real estate taxes and property insurance.

If the total amount of your **Replacement Housing Payment (RHP)** (Price Differential, Mortgage Differential and Incidental Expenses) exceeds \$22,500, the payment must be deposited directly into an escrow account or paid directly to the mortgage company.

EXAMPLES OF PRICE DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENT COMPUTATION:

SCENARIO 1: If you ***owned and occupied the mobile home for at least 180 days***, and it's on ***your own property***, and Caltrans ***acquires your mobile home***, then you are entitled to receive a **Price Differential** based on a comparable residential property.

Assume that Caltrans purchases your property and mobile home for \$98,000. After a thorough study of available, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings on the open market, Caltrans determines that a comparable replacement property, a mobile home on a similar size lot, will cost you \$100,000. If your actual purchase price is \$100,000, you will receive \$2,000 (see *Example A*).

If your actual purchase price is more than \$100,000, you pay the difference (see *Example B*). If your actual purchase price is less than \$100,000, the differential payment will be based on actual costs (see *Example C*).

Remember: You do not have to purchase another mobile home as your replacement property.

How much of a differential payment you receive depends on how much you actually spend on a replacement dwelling as shown in these examples:

Caltrans' Computation

Comparable Replacement Property and Mobile Home:	\$100,000
Acquisition Price of Your Property and Mobile Home:	– \$ <u>98,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 2,000

Example A

Purchase Price of Replacement Property and Mobile Home:	\$100,000
Comparable Replacement Property and Mobile Home	\$100,000
Acquisition Price of Your Property and Mobile Home:	– \$ <u>98,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 2,000

Example B

Purchase Price of Replacement Property and Mobile Home:	\$105,000
Comparable Replacement Property and Mobile Home:	\$100,000
Acquisition Price of Your Property and Mobile Home:	– \$ <u>98,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 2,000
You Must Pay the Additional:	\$ 5,000

Example C

Comparable Replacement Property and Mobile Home:	\$100,000
Purchase Price of Replacement and Mobile Home:	\$ 99,000
Acquisition Price of Your Property and Mobile Home:	– \$ 98,000
Price Differential:	\$ 1,000

In Example C you will only receive \$1,000 – not the full amount of the Caltrans “Comparable Replacement Property” because of the “Spend to Get” requirements.

SCENARIO 2: If you ***owned and occupied the mobile home for at least 180 days***, and it’s on ***your own property***, and Caltrans DOES NOT ***acquire your mobile home***, then you are entitled to receive a **Price Differential** based on a comparable residential property on which you can relocate your mobile home.

Assume that Caltrans purchases your land for \$48,000. After a thorough study of available locations for purchase that can accommodate the mobile home unit that you retained (which will be moved by a qualified mover), Caltrans determines that a comparable replacement piece of land will cost you \$51,000. If your actual purchase price is \$51,000, you will receive \$3,000 (*see Example A*).

If your actual purchase price is more than \$51,000, you pay the difference (*see Example B*). If your actual purchase price is less than \$51,000, the differential payment will be based on actual costs (*see Example C*).

Remember: You do not have to buy a replacement piece of land for your mobile home. You can sell your mobile home to a private party, and purchase a single family residence. However, your RHP will be based on the replacement value of the land.

How much of a differential payment you receive depends on how much you actually spend on a replacement dwelling as shown in these examples:

Caltrans' Computation

Comparable Replacement Land:	\$ 51,000
Acquisition Price of Your Land :	– \$ <u>48,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 3,000

Example A

Purchase Price of Replacement Land:	\$ 51,000
Comparable Replacement Land:	\$ 51,000
Acquisition Price of Your Land:	– \$ <u>48,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential	\$ 3,000

Example B

Purchase Price of Replacement Land:	\$ 55,000
Comparable Replacement Land:	\$ 51,000
Acquisition Price of Your Land:	– \$ <u>48,000</u>
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 3,000
You Must Pay the Additional:	\$ 4,000

Example C

Comparable Replacement Property:	\$ 51,000
Purchase Price of Replacement:	\$ 49,500
Acquisition Price of Your Property:	– \$ <u>48,000</u>
Price Differential	\$ 1,500

In Example C you will only receive \$1,500 – not the full amount of the Caltrans “Comparable Replacement Property” because of the “Spend to Get” requirements.

SCENARIO 3: If you ***owned and occupied the mobile home for at least 180 days***, and it's on land that you rent (e.g. a mobile home park), and Caltrans **DOES NOT *acquire your mobile home***, then you may be entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on a comparable piece of land.

However, if Caltrans acquires your mobile home because it cannot be moved, it is not considered “decent, safe and sanitary,” there are no comparable replacement locations, or available mobile home parks will not accept it because of its size or condition, then you may be entitled to a **Price Differential** for the mobile home plus a **Rent Differential** for the land you rent in the Mobile Home Park.

Assume that Caltrans purchases your mobile home for \$38,000 which is located in a Mobile Home Park where you pay \$400 per month for rent (which includes heat, lights, water, garbage, sewer). Caltrans conducts a thorough study of available pieces of land for rent that can accommodate a mobile home unit **AND** the purchase price of a comparable mobile home unit. An example of your entitlement might be:

Caltrans’ Computation

Comparable Replacement Land for Rent:	\$ 500
Rent you currently pay at the mobile home park:	<u>– \$ 400</u>
Monthly difference:	\$ 100
Multiplied times 42 months – Maximum Rent Differential:	– \$ 4,200

if you spent at least \$500 per month at the new location.

PLUS:

Comparable Replacement Mobile Home for purchase:	\$42,000
Acquisition Price of the Mobile Home you occupy:	– \$ 38,000
Maximum Price Differential:	\$ 4,000

If you pay at least \$42,000 for a new mobile home to be set up at the new mobile home park

In order for a “180 day owner occupant” to receive the full amount of their Replacement Housing Payment (*Price Differential, Mortgage Differential and Incidental Expenses*), you must:

A) Purchase and occupy a DS&S replacement dwelling within one year after the later of:

(1) The date you first receive a notification of an available replacement residential property (e.g. mobile home on an existing location, land available for your mobile home, or another type of residential unit), **OR**

(2) The date that Caltrans has paid the acquisition cost of your mobile home and/or land (usually the closing of escrow on State's acquisition),

AND

B) Spend at least the amount of the Caltrans "Comparable Replacement Property" for a replacement property,

AND

C) File a claim for relocation payments within 18 months of the later:

(1) The date you vacate the property acquired by Caltrans, **OR**

(2) The date that Caltrans has paid the acquisition cost of your current dwelling (usually the close of escrow on State's acquisition).

You will **not** be eligible to receive any relocation payments until the State has actually made the first written offer to purchase the property. Also, you will also receive at least 90 days' written notice before you must move.

For Owner Occupants and Tenants of 90 Days or More

If you qualify as a 90-day occupant (either as an owner or tenant), you may be eligible for a Replacement Housing Payment in the form of a Rent Differential. Remember – it is your status in the mobile home unit that determines your "occupancy."

The **Rent Differential** payment is designed to assist you in renting a comparable decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling. The payment is based on the difference between the base monthly Rent for the property acquired by Caltrans (including average monthly cost for utilities) and the lesser of:

- a) The monthly rent and estimated average monthly cost of utilities for a comparable replacement dwelling as determined by Caltrans, **OR**
- b) The monthly rent and estimated average monthly cost of utilities for the decent, safe and sanitary dwelling that you actually rent as a replacement dwelling.

Utility costs are those expenses you incur for heat, lights, water and sewer – regardless of the source (e.g. electricity, propane, and septic system). It does not include garbage, cable, telephone, or security. The utilities at your property are the average costs over the last 12 months. The utilities at the comparable replacement property are the estimated costs for the last 12 months for the type of dwelling and area used in the calculation.

This difference is multiplied by 42 months and may be paid to you in a lump sum payment or in periodic installments in accordance with policy and regulations. (See page 23 for an example)

In order to receive the full amount of the calculated Rent Differential, you must spend at least the amount calculated by Caltrans on a replacement property.

This payment may – with certain limitations – be converted to a **Down Payment Option** to assist you in purchasing a replacement property. (See page 31 for a full explanation)

Example of Replacement Housing Payments for 90 day occupants:

Situation 1: You ***owned and occupied*** the mobile home unit and the land for at least 90 days but not more than 180 days. You are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on the economic rent of your home (the unit and the land) and a comparable home (the unit and the land) that is available for rent.

If you move the mobile home, then you are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on economic rent of the mobile home site and a comparable mobile home site that is available for rent.

Situation 2: You ***rented and occupied*** the mobile home unit for at least 90 days, which was located on land you owned. You are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on the actual rent of your mobile home plus the economic rent of the

mobile home site, and a comparable mobile home (the unit and site) that is available for rent.

Situation 3: You ***rented and occupied*** the mobile home and the land for at least 90 days. You are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on the actual rent of the mobile home unit (including utilities) and the land, compared with a comparable home (the unit and the land) that is available for rent.

Situation 4: You ***owned and occupied*** the mobile home for at least 90 days, on land that you rented. You are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on economic rent of the mobile home PLUS the actual rent of the mobile home site, and a comparable mobile home (the unit and site) that is available for rent.

If you move the mobile home, then you are entitled to a **Rent Differential** based on the actual or economic rent of the mobile home site and a comparable mobile home site that is available for rent.

In order for a “90 day owner occupant” to receive the full amount of their Replacement Housing Payment (*Rent Differential*), you must:

A) Rent and occupy a DS&S replacement dwelling within one year after the later of:

(1) The date you first receive a notification of an available replacement house, **OR**

(2) The day you vacate the property acquired by Caltrans.

AND

B) Spend at least the amount of the Caltrans “Comparable Replacement Property” to rent a replacement property,

AND

C) File a claim for relocation payments within 18 months of the later of:

(1) The date you vacate the property acquired by Caltrans, **OR**

(2) The date that Caltrans has paid the acquisition cost of your current dwelling (usually the close of escrow on State’s acquisition).

In order for a “90 day occupant” to receive the full amount of their Replacement Housing Payment (*Rent Differential*), you must:

A) Rent and occupy a DS&S replacement dwelling within one year after day you vacate the property acquired by Caltrans,

AND

B) Spend at least the amount of the Caltrans “Comparable Replacement Property” to rent a replacement property,

AND

C) File a claim for relocation payments within 18 months of the day you vacate the property acquired by Caltrans.

You will not be eligible to receive any relocation payments until the State has actually made the first written offer to purchase the property. Also, you will also receive at least 90 days’ written notice before you must move.

Down Payment Option

The Rent Differential payment may – with certain limitations – be converted to a **Down Payment** to assist you in purchasing a replacement property. The Down Payment is a direct conversion of the Rent Differential payment.

If the Caltrans calculated Rent Differential is between \$0 and \$5,250, your Down Payment will be \$5,250 which can be used towards the purchase of a replacement decent, safe and sanitary dwelling.

If the Rent Differential is over \$5,250, you may be able to convert the entire amount of the Rent Differential to a Down Payment option.

The Down Payment option must be used for the required Down Payment, which is usually a percentage of the entire purchase price, plus any eligible incidental expenses (*see page 17 – 180-day Owner Occupants Incidental Expenses*) related to the purchase of the property. You must work closely with your Relocation Agent to ensure you can utilize the full amount of your Down Payment option towards the purchase.

If any portion of the Rent Differential was used prior to the decision to convert to a Down Payment, those advance payments will be deducted from the entire benefit.

Last Resort Housing

On most projects, an adequate supply of housing will be available for sale and for rent, and the benefits provided will be sufficient to enable you to relocate to comparable housing. However, there may be projects in certain locations where the supply of available housing is insufficient to provide the necessary housing for those persons being displaced. In such cases, Caltrans will utilize a method called Last Resort Housing. Last Resort Housing allows Caltrans to construct, rehabilitate or modify housing in order to meet the needs of the people displaced from a project. Caltrans can also pay above the statutory limits of \$5,250 and \$22,500 in order to make available housing affordable.

Relocation Advisory Assistance

Any owner or occupant of a mobile home impacted by a Caltrans project shall be offered relocation advisory assistance for the purpose of locating a replacement property. Relocation services are provided by qualified personnel employed by Caltrans. It is their goal and desire to be of service to you and assist in any way possible to help you successfully relocate.

A Relocation Agent from Caltrans will contact you personally. Relocation services and payments will be explained to you in accordance with your eligibility. During the initial interview with you, your housing needs and desires will be determined as well as your need for assistance. You cannot be required to move unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling is made available to you.

You can expect to receive the following services, advice and assistance from your Relocation Agent who will:

- Explain the relocation benefits and eligibility requirements.
- Provide the amount of the replacement housing payments in writing.
- Assure the availability of a comparable property before you move.
- Inspect possible replacement residential units for DS&S compliance.
- Provide information on counseling you can obtain to help minimize hardships in adjusting to your new location.

- Assist you in completing loan documents, rental applications or Relocation claims.

AND provide information on:

- Security deposits
- Interest rates and terms
- Typical down payments
- VA and FHA loan requirements
- Real and personal property taxes
- Qualified mobile home movers, including disassembly and reassembly
- Mobile Home Park requirements and fees
- Consumer education literature on housing

If you desire, your Relocation Agent will give you current listings of other available replacement housing. Transportation will be provided to inspect available housing, especially if you are elderly or handicapped. Though you may use the services of a real estate broker, Caltrans cannot provide a referral.

Your Relocation Agent is familiar with the services provided by others in your community and will provide information on other federal, state, and local housing programs offering assistance to displaced persons. If you have special problems, your Relocation Agent will make every effort to secure the services of those agencies with trained personnel who have the expertise to help you.

If the highway project will require a considerable number of people to be relocated, Caltrans will establish a temporary Relocation Field Office on or near the project.. Project relocation offices will be open during convenient hours and evening hours if necessary.

In addition to these services, Caltrans is required to coordinate its relocation activities with other agencies causing displacements to ensure that all persons displaced receive fair and consistent relocation benefits.

Remember – YOUR RELOCATION AGENT is there to offer advice and assistance. Do not hesitate to ask questions. And be sure you fully understand all of your rights and available benefits.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A DISPLACED

All eligible displacees have a ***freedom of choice*** in the selection of replacement housing, and Caltrans will not require any displaced person to accept a replacement dwelling provided by Caltrans. If you decide not to accept the replacement housing offered by Caltrans, you may secure a replacement dwelling of your choice, providing it meets DS&S housing standards. Caltrans will not pay more than your calculated benefits on any replacement property.

The most important thing to remember is that the replacement dwelling you select must meet the basic “decent, safe, and sanitary” standards. *Do not execute a purchase agreement or a rental agreement* until a representative from Caltrans has inspected and certified in writing that the dwelling you propose to occupy meets the basic standards. **DO NOT jeopardize** your right to receive a replacement housing payment by moving into a substandard dwelling.

It is important to remember that your relocation benefits will ***not have an adverse*** affect on your:

- Social Security Eligibility
- Welfare Eligibility
- Income Taxes

In addition, the **Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968** and later acts and amendments make discriminatory practices in the purchase and rental of most residential units illegal if based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Whenever possible, minority persons shall be given reasonable opportunities to relocate to decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwellings, not located in an area of minority concentration, and that is within their financial means. This policy, however, does not require Caltrans to provide a person a larger payment than is necessary to enable a person to relocate to a comparable replacement dwelling.

Caltrans’ **Non-Discrimination Policy** ensures that all services and/or benefits will be administered to the general public without regard to race, color, national origin, or sex in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (42 USC 2000d. et seq.).

And you always have the **Right to Appeal** any decision by Caltrans regarding your relocation benefits and eligibility.

Your Right of Appeal is guaranteed in the “Uniform Act” which states that any person may file an appeal with the head of the responsible agency if that person believes that the agency has failed to properly determine the person’s eligibility or the amount of a payment authorized by the Act.

If you indicate your dissatisfaction, either verbally or in writing, Caltrans will assist you in filing an appeal and explain the procedures to be followed. You will be given a prompt and full opportunity to be heard. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel or other representative in connection with the appeal (but solely at your own expense).

Caltrans will consider all pertinent justifications and materials submitted by you and other available information needed to ensure a fair review. Caltrans will provide you with a written determination resulting from the appeal with an explanation of the basis for the decision. If you are still dissatisfied with the relief granted, Caltrans will advise you that you may seek judicial review.

NOTES: