



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
MAILING ADDRESS: 1106 SECOND STREET, EUREKA, CA 95501-0579
AREA CODE 707**

On-line Web: humboldt.gov.org	Public Works Building Second & L St., Eureka Fax 445-7409	Clark Complex Harris & H St., Eureka Fax 445-7388
	Administration 445-7491	Natural Resources 445-7741
	Business 445-7652	Natural Resource Planning 267-9542
	Engineering 445-7377	Parks 445-7651
	Facility Management 445-7621	Roads 445-7421
		Land Use 445-7205

LAND USE DIVISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Levitt, Senior Engineering Technician,
Road & Equipment Maintenance Division

FROM: Robert W. Bronkall, Deputy Director

DATE: September 17, 2019
June 9, 2020 revised

RE: HUMBOLDT COUNTY ROAD NUMBER FORMAT

This memo documents how road numbers are assigned per the policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 28, 1968.

The format of a road number is:

ABCDDD

Where:

A is an optional field that designates a higher functioning road as follows:

- F** designates a Federal Aid Secondary (FAS) route
- C** designates a collector road
- A** designates an arterial road

The functional classification of a road (Collector, Arterial, Local, etc..) is made using the procedures set forth by Federal Highway Administration. See FHWA's *Highway Function Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures, 2013 edition*.

B designates township position on the map by longitude. The designation is by a single number. See Figure 1.

C designates range position on the map by latitude. The designation is by a single alpha character. See Figure 1.

DDD designates an individual road. The designation is by a three-digit number. This number was initially assigned on a skip-ten basis (such as 010, 020, 030, 040, etc) so that there would be gaps between road numbers. This "reserves" room for assigning road numbers when new roads are built. The idea is that the gaps would be used to assign road numbers in the same value range as nearby roads.

In the event that there are more than 999 road numbers needed for a township, a letter will be introduced into the format. When this need arises, the last character of **DDD** will be replaced with an alpha character. Letters “I” and “O” will not be used as the letter I looks like the number one, and the letter O looks like zero. Examples of the expanded numbering convention include: 3K**25D**, 4L**34A**, 5M**76B**, etc.

Examples include:

A	B	C	D	D	D
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
_	6	C	0	6	0
A	3	L	0	7	0
C	3	L	0	7	0
_	3	J	6	3	5
C	3	K	1	0	0
_	4	A	0	4	8
_	4	A	0	9	9

The agenda item for 02/28/1968 BOS meeting included a 02/21/1968 memo from Director Guy Kulstad. The memo identified that some of the benefits of this system are:

1. Allows for a maximum of 1,000 roads and streets within each township.
2. This method is in conformance with other counties and the State numbering system.
3. This system can be utilized in the County’s data processing system and also the State’s. The State of California prepares the annual maintenance logs and revises the maps for the system.
4. This method will allow for the permanent establishment of mile posts, which will facilitate the pinpointing of critical maintenance areas, accounting references, construction projects, preliminary engineering studies, traffic surveys, and the establishment of traffic ordinances.
5. It eliminates the duplication of numbers which exist; in many cases several numbers presently exist for the same route.

The following is a brief explanation of the system:

Road numbers will have either 5 or 6 characters. If a route has 6 characters the first is F (F.A.S. Route), A (Arterial), or C (Collector). These letters designate major routes. If a road has 5 characters the first is a number which designates township position on the map by longitude and is a minor route. For a major route the second character designates longitude. The third character on a major route or the second on a minor route is a letter designating township by latitude. The remaining 3 characters on either major or minor roads allow for 1,000 routes in each township.

An example of the system is the Freshwater-Kneeland-Yager-Bridgeville Road which is a continuous route and also an F.A.S. road. Prior to this method it had three (3) road numbers –

422, 322, and 222 – and no one actually knew where the breaks occurred in the field. The new number is the same throughout and is logged from Bridgeville, F6F060.

In order to facilitate locating roads on the official maps, the longitude number and the latitude letter are placed on the map around the perimeter of the townships.

		Range	3W	2W	1W	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	Range		
Township	Map Coordinate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Map Coordinate	Township		
13N	S	1S	2S	3S	4S	5S	6S	7S	8S	9S	S	13N		
12N	R	1R	2R	3R	4R	5R	6R	7R	8R	9R	R	12N		
11N	Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	Q	11N		
10N	P	1P	2P	3P	4P	5P	6P	7P	8P	9P	P	10N		
9N	O	1O	2O	3O	4O	5O	6O	7O	8O	9O	O	9N		
8N	N	1N	2N	3N	4N	5N	6N	7N	8N	9N	N	8N		
7N	M	1M	2M	3M	4M	5M	6M	7M	8M	9M	M	7N		
6N	L	1L	2L	3L	4L	5L	6L	7L	8L	9L	L	6N		
5N	K	1K	2K	3K	4K	5K	6K	7K	8K	9K	K	5N		
4N	J	1J	2J	3J	4J	5J	6J	7J	8J	9J	J	4N		
3N	H	1H	2H	3H	4H	5H	6H	7H	8H	9H	H	3N		
2N	G	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	7G	8G	9G	G	2N		
1N	F	1F	2F	3F	4F	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	F	1N		
1S	E	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	E	1S		
2S	D	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	D	2S		
3S	C	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	C	3S		
4S	B	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	B	4S		
5S	A	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	A	5S		
Township	Map Coordinate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Map Coordinate	Township		
		Range	3W	2W	1W	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	Range		

Figure 1: Township and Range Designation Key for variables **B** and **C**.

Example: A road in Township 5 North, Range 3 East will have **B**=6 and **C**=K

// END //