

**Express Terms**  
**Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1**  
**Article 3.3 Environmental and Special Interest License Plates**

**§ 206.00. Information Required on a Special Interest/or Environmental License Plate Application.**

(a) An application for special interest/ or environmental license plates, as defined in Sections 5060 and 5103 of the Vehicle Code, shall be submitted in person or by mail to the department on a Special Interest License Plate Application, Form REG 17 (Rev. ~~7/2000~~ 7/2018), provided by the department and available on the Internet at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

(1) If the application is made in person, it shall be made to any department location which processes vehicle registrations.

(2) If the application is made by mail, it shall be sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Special Processing Unit, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-3450, or to any department location which processes vehicle registrations.

(3) Another department-approved version of this form with a different revision date shall be acceptable if the content of the form is in substantial compliance with the requirements of this section.

(b) The application shall be accompanied by the applicable fee specified in Sections 4850, 5106, and 5108 of the Vehicle Code and, where applicable, for a; ~~the fee schedule is on the back of the form.~~

(1) California Legacy license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5004.3; or

(2) Commemorative Collegiate license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5024; or

(3) Yosemite license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5064; or

(4) California Memorial license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5066; or

(5) California Coastal license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5067; or

(6) Veteran's Organization license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5068; or

(7) Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5072; or

(8) California Arts Council license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5074; or

(9) Lake Tahoe license plate the fee specified in Vehicle Code Section 5075; or

(10) Gold Star license plate the fees specified in Vehicle Code Sections 5156 and 5157.

~~(e) The application shall include the following information:~~

- ~~(1) An indication of whether the application is for original plates, for replacement plates or to reassign, hold or release current plates.~~
- ~~(2) The purchaser's or plate owner's true full name.~~
- ~~(3) The mailing address of the person who will be the plate owner.~~
- ~~(4) The name of the recipient, if the plates are a gift.~~
- ~~(5) An indication of whether the license plates will be assigned to an auto, truck, trailer, or motorcycle, and the type of plate ordered.~~
- ~~(6) The location of the department or auto club office where the special interest/environmental license plates will be picked up or exchanged for the current license plates and registration, if the license plates will not be mailed.~~
- ~~(7) The applicant's first, second, and third choices of the configuration of letters and numbers to appear on the license plates and the meaning of each.~~

(c) An application for an environmental license plate shall include the following:

- (1) ~~(A)~~ The configuration shall comply with the specifications of Section 5105 of the Vehicle Code.
- (2) ~~(B)~~ When a ~~desired~~ requested configuration is not available, a letter shall not be substituted for a number, nor shall a number be substituted for a letter, to create another configuration of a similar appearance.
- (3) ~~(C)~~ The number zero shall not be used in the configuration.
- (4) ~~(D)~~ The department shall refuse any configuration that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency, or which would be misleading, based on criteria which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (A) ~~1.~~ The configuration has a sexual connotation or is a term of lust or depravity.
  - (B) ~~2.~~ The configuration is a vulgar term; a term of contempt, prejudice, or hostility; an insulting or degrading term; a racially degrading term; or an ethnically degrading term.
  - (C) ~~3.~~ The configuration is a swear word or term considered profane, obscene, or repulsive.
  - (D) ~~4.~~ The configuration has a negative connotation to a specific group.

~~(E) 5.~~ The configuration misrepresents a law enforcement entity.

~~(F) 6.~~ The configuration has been deleted from regular series license plates.

~~(G) 7.~~ The configuration is a foreign or slang word or term, or is a phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term falling into the categories described in subdivisions ~~1.A~~ through ~~6.F~~ above.

~~(8) If the plate is reassigned, held for future use or relinquished, complete the appropriate information as required:~~

~~(A) The special interest license plate number.~~

~~(B) The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle the plate was taken from.~~

~~(C) If reassigned, the current license plate number of the vehicle it will be on and that vehicle's VIN.~~

~~(D) An indication if the plate is being reserved for future use.~~

~~(E) An indication of release of interest in the plate.~~

~~(9) If the application is for replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated plates indicate whether one or two plates are needed.~~

~~(10) A statement signed by the purchaser certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the purchaser has provided true and correct information.~~

~~(11) The date the application is signed~~

~~(12) The purchaser's daytime telephone number.~~

~~(13) If the plate is being purchased as a gift, the plate owner specified in subdivision (c)(4), of this regulation, shall be the recipient, and the purchaser specified in subdivisions (c)(2), (10), and (12), of this regulation, shall be the applicant.~~

(d) The department shall not honor a request for a change of choice or spacing in the letter/number configuration, or a request for a refund, after the license plate reservation is made, unless the request is due to departmental error.

(1) If the department erred when making the special interest/or environmental license plate reservation, and the plate owner requests a change, the plate owner shall be

permitted to submit a new special interest~~/or~~ environmental license plates application without payment of additional fees.

(2) If the department did not err when making the reservation, a new application and application fees shall be submitted for any change in the configuration.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651, 1652 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 4850, 5004.3, 5024, 5060, 5064, 5066, 5067, 5068, 5072, 5074, 5075, 5101, 5102, 5103, 5105, 5106, 5108, ~~and~~ 5109, 5156, and 5157 Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.02. Assignment of Special Interest or Environmental License Plates to Leased or Company Vehicle.**

(a) If the applicant is the lessee of the vehicle to which the special interest or environmental license plates are to be assigned but the registration certificate does not show the applicant's name as the lessee, a statement of facts authorizing the use of the special interest or environmental license plates on the vehicle shall be required from the leasing company.

(b) If the special interest or environmental license plates are to be assigned to a company vehicle, a statements of facts authorizing the use of the special interest or environmental license plates on the vehicle shall be required from the company.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101, 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.04. Receipt of Special Interest or Environmental License Plates as a Gift.**

(a) A statement of facts shall be required when the plates were ordered as a gift and the purchaser's name was incorrectly listed as the plate owner.

(1) The statement of facts shall indicate that the plates are a gift to the registered owner or lessee of the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned and that no money changed hands.

(2) The statement of facts shall be completed either by the original applicant or the recipient.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101, 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.06. Surrender of Current Plates.**

(a) When ~~application for~~ environmental license plates ~~is made for~~ are picked up and assigned to a currently registered vehicle, and the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is known, the current plates shall be surrendered to the department ~~at the time of application~~, with the following exceptions:

(1) If the vehicle's current license plates are not available, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.

(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the current plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy the plates.

1. The plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.

(2) If the environmental license plates are mailed to the applicant, the current plates shall be surrendered to the department or destroyed by the applicant upon receipt.

(b) When sequential special interest license plates are assigned ~~the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is unknown at the time of application,~~ the current plates and registration certificate shall be surrendered to the department or destroyed by the applicant when once the environmental new license plates are received. ~~picked up and assigned to the vehicle, with the following exception:~~

~~(1) If the current plates are not available, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.~~

~~(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the current plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy the plates.~~

~~1. The plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

#### **§ 206.08. Delivery of Special Interest or Environmental License Plates.**

(a) When the vehicle to which the special interest or environmental license plates will be assigned is known and the registration documents are furnished at the time of application, the department ~~shall~~ may mail the plates to the plate owner.

(b) When the special interest or environmental license plates are not mailed to the plate owner, the vehicle to which the plates will be assigned is unknown, or the registration documents are not furnished at the time of application, the department shall notify the plate owner when the plates have been delivered to the designated office.

(1) The department shall make three attempts by telephone or mail to contact the plate owner to pick up the plates and assign them to a vehicle.

(A) If the owner does not respond within four months of the first contact attempt, the department shall notify the owner in writing that priority to the plates will be ~~lost~~ forfeited in 30 days and the plates will be destroyed.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5104 and 5105, Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.10. Retention of Environmental License Plates.**

(a) When payment of registration renewal fees is not required as specified in Vehicle Code Section 4000 for a vehicle to which the environmental license plate was last assigned, the environmental license plate owner shall be permitted to retain the plate upon payment of an annual retention fee of ~~\$25~~, as specified in the section of the Vehicle Code that corresponds to the license plate type ~~Sections 5106(e)~~.

(1) If the annual retention fee is not paid by the expiration of the registration year for which payment of registration renewal fees is not required, the plate owner shall lose ownership and the letter/number configuration shall become available for reassignment.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 4000, 5004.3, 5064, 5066, 5067, 5074, 5075, 5105 and 5106, Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.12. Cancellation of Environmental License Plates.**

(a) Pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 5105, the department shall cancel and order the return of any environmental license plate previously issued which contains any configuration of letters and/or numbers which the department later determines may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency.

(1) The department shall base this determination on the criteria specified in Section ~~206.00(c)(7)-(4)(D)~~.

(b) The department shall notify the plate owner in writing of the cancellation and advise the plate owner of the options available for further action, as specified in Vehicle Code Section 5105(b).

(1) Pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 5105(b), the plate owner shall be entitled to a hearing by submitting a written request to the department no later than ten departmental business days after receiving the notification.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Section 5105, Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.14. Special Recognition License Plate Application**

(a) An application for a special recognition license plate shall be completed on a Special Recognition License Plate Application form. REG 17A (Rev. 11/2017), which is hereby incorporated by reference, and submitted to the department along with:

(1) a copy of the vehicle registration card in the applicant's name or documents required to register the vehicle to the applicant ; and

(2) the required fee(s); and

(3) the required additional documentation/certification either in person at a departmental field office or by mail to the departmental address provided on the application form.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5004, 5004.5, 5005, 5006, 5008, 5101.2, 5101.3 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6(c), 5101.8, 5108, 5156, and 9265 Vehicle Code.

**§ 206.16. Surrender of Current Plates**

(a) When special recognition license plates are picked up at a department field office and assigned to a currently registered vehicle, the vehicle's current license plates shall be surrendered to the department, with the following exception:

(1) If the applicant does not have the vehicle's current license plates to surrender, the applicant shall complete a statement of facts.

(A) The statement of facts shall state that the applicant understands that the vehicle's current license plates are no longer valid and the applicant will destroy those license plates.

1. The license plates shall be considered destroyed when they are mutilated in a manner which renders them useless.

(b) When special recognition license plates are assigned and mailed to the applicant, the vehicle's current license plates shall be surrendered to the department or destroyed by the applicant once new license plates are received.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 5110, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 5101 and 5105, Vehicle Code.