



California Land Surveyors Association

Monument Preservation Committee

Approved for Publishing to CLSA webpage July, 2026

Suggestions for Satisfying new requirements under 8771.6

There is a new section to the Professional Land Surveyors Act that went into effect on January 1st, 2025. This newest section is number 8771.6, the text of law is copied here:

8771.6

(a) In every case where a monument is found with a physical condition that is less than permanent and durable, the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer using that monument as control in any survey shall reconstruct or rehabilitate the monument so that the same shall be left by them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument as is reasonably possible and so that the same may be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029, and as of that date is repealed.

The CLSA Monument Preservation Committee was charged in the July 2024 Board of Directors meeting to prepare a guide with a few suggestions for complying with this new law. As in all matters related to Land Surveying the contrary to any of these suggestions may also be appropriate based on the specific conditions encountered, and it is the opinion of the Monument Preservation Committee that nothing contained herein should be used to avoid or prevent the exercise of good judgement by a licensed professional to satisfy the requirements of 8771.6 in their particular area.

The main points of discussion surrounding this new law are expected to be the following:

- 1) What is encompassed by the term “**...using that monument or corner accessory as control in any survey...**”
- 2) What is needed to be done physically to satisfy the standard described as “**...shall be left by them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument or corner accessory as is reasonably possible...**”
- 3) What is required to meet the standard described as “**...be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.**”

The distinction between monuments and tags should be noted. This law relates to monuments, not tags. It does not automatically require the tagging of un-tagged monuments found and held by a newer survey.

These requirements are not within the scope of the County Surveyor’s review outlined in 8766.

The definitions that form the basis for the following suggestions are listed on page 5.

Suggestions for Topic 1)

1) What is encompassed by the term “...*using that monument or corner accessory as control in any survey*...

The law is clear that ANY survey shall trigger this requirement. This includes; topographic maps, site plans, ALTA/NSPS maps, records of survey, corner records, parcel/final maps, or any other work product that is protected by the definition of land surveying contained in section 8726.

The part that will likely have a variety of opinions is the “*used for control*” part. This committee believes that the law is mainly focused on “BOUNDARY CONTROL” and the easiest way to determine if a monument is being used for boundary control is if a boundary line shown on a map goes through, or ends on, the monument in question. An additional test is to see if the boundary line is a specific distance from a monument based on some previous document or knowledge, IE a known offset.

Vertical and horizontal control is included within the scope of the law but is not expected to be very controversial because any monument used for vertical or horizontal control is likely durable or it would not be used in the first place. Likewise for monuments used to determine State Plane Coordinates or other control networks. The nature of the work means that the monuments defining those positions will likely be durable and easy to locate from their published data sheets or map etc.

Some common examples that would generally be considered as “control”:

- A) A deed called for pipe.
- B) Original section corners, or their documented replacements.
- C) Found original bearing trees, or their documented replacement.
- D) A “point on line” monument set by a corner record at the top of bank of a creek
- E) A monument that is accepted as best available evidence of a corner
- F) A Brass disc on a headwall used for vertical control

Some common examples that would generally NOT be considered as control:

- Z) Monuments of no record that are found near the location of the corner as shown on the survey.
- Y) A monument set by a previous RoS that is not “accepted” or “held” by the map being prepared.
- X) Temporary benchmarks used for level loops.
- W) Any sort of temporary markings set for construction purposes. (IE ginnies, hub and tack, or paint.)
- V) Random survey control points set in the course of fieldwork not shown on a published map.

Suggestions for Topic 2)

2) What is needed to be done physically to satisfy the standard described as “...*shall be left by them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument or corner accessory as is reasonably possible*...”

Location and site conditions will largely determine what sort of monument satisfies this law. Monuments that last near the ocean may be different than what would last in a redwood forest, which may be different than what might be durable in the Sierra. It is expected that the local surveyors will have largely figured out what works for each area. The best indication of what should be considered “permanent” is what is being set on the majority of Records of Surveys filed in the area over the last 10 years.

If anything is added to ensure the permanence of the monument marking a position, then the additions will be required to be tagged or otherwise marked in accordance with PLSA 8772 and be shown on a Corner Record of Record of Survey as the situation requires.

Some common examples of what is generally considered permanent:

- A) Iron pipes and rebar 1/2" and larger, set in non-corrosive environments.
- B) Large wooden fence posts, such as railroad ties or 6x6 split rail posts.
- C) Any sort of monument within a monument well.
- D) Nails set in a hard structurally sound surface, like 3" PKs in new asphalt, or a 60d in a blaze.
- E) Metal washers epoxied to concrete.
- F) Cuts into a hard surface, like scribed X's on a curb.
- G) Aluminum alloy monuments set near the coast, or in salty environments.
- H) Coated magnets.

Some common examples of what is generally NOT considered permanent:

- Z) Painted spots or circles on the ground
- Y) Wood stakes or hubs with less than 6sq/in of solid rot resistant wood on their top surface.
- X) Nails, PK, spikes etc. set in structurally broken surfaces, like alligatored asphalt, dirt, or failed concrete.
- W) Iron pipes set in corrosive environments, like the ocean shore, or caustic soils.
- V) Low melting point metal monuments set in fire prone areas.

Suggestions for Topic 3)

3) What is required to meet the standard described as “...*be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.*”

This phrase is expected to cause debate about what is meant by “located with facility” As locating monuments is part of what surveyors do, any “location” done in the future will be done by a land surveyor. This means that the skillset and tools of the average land surveyor should be used for evaluating the ease of relocation in regard to satisfying this law.

Maps and documents are an integral part of a surveyor’s job, and so the information contained on a map or other recorded document prepared by a surveyor is part of what goes into determining if something is going to be easily located at all times in the future. Monuments that would be hard to locate can become easy to locate with the addition of a clarifying note on a map. Monuments that are easy to locate because of temporary flagging or wooden lath set next to it will not satisfy the “for all times” requirement.

A simple test to see if a monument meets this requirement is if in 20 years a licensed surveyor would be expected to find it in 5-10 minutes of searching without using “survey grade” equipment (GPS, Total Station etc.) to stake out its location.

Some common examples of what is generally considered easy to locate:

- A) Iron pipes or rebar 1/2" and larger set in non-magnetic environments.
- B) Large wooden fence posts, such as railroad ties or 6x6 split rail posts
- C) Non magnetics discs set in concrete, as long as it is shown on a filed map tied to nearby monuments.
- D) Any sort of monument within a monument well.
- E) A nail set in a hard structurally sound open surface, like a 3" PK in new asphalt.
- F) Cuts into a hard surface, like scribed X's on a curb, as long as they are shown on a filed map.

Some common examples of what is generally NOT considered easy to locate:

- Z) Chiseled stones, or other non-magnetic objects, buried in the dirt, without nearby reference points.
- Y) Stone mounds less than one (1) foot tall, or if they are located in very rocky areas.
- X) Wood stakes or hubs that have less than one (1) foot sticking out above the ground or duff.
- W) Nails set in dirt, since their magnetic field is variable and generally small.
- V) Iron pipes or rebars set in magnetic environments, like junkyards, magnesite mines, or magnet factories.

Definitions

For the purpose of these suggestions, the following definitions have been used:

Monument= As pertaining to land surveying, tangible landmarks indicating land boundaries.

Source Brown's Boundary Control, 7th Edition. Glossary

Permanent= Fixed, enduring, abiding, not subject to change. Generally opposed in law to "temporary."

Source Black's Law Dictionary 2nd Edition.

Durable= 1) able to exist for a long time without significant deterioration in quality or value 2) designed to be durable

Source: Merriam Webster.

Control= the thing that is used to determine the location of a position of a deed, map, or other real property boundary, generally the highest form of evidence on the Hierarchy of Calls as defined in CCP § 2077

Reconstruct= Same as "rehabilitate"

Source: BLM Glossary of Surveying and Mapping Terms published 1980

Rehabilitate= The restoration of a corner monument or its accessories to original conditions but not the addition of new accessories or any altering of the record. See REMONUMENTATION.

Source: BLM Glossary of Surveying and Mapping Terms published 1980

Remonumentation= The construction of a corner monument (iron post, rock cap or concrete monument) at the position of an original monument as determined from proper measurement from its original accessories. New accessories may be added if required. See REHABILITATION and PERPETUATION OF CORNERS

Source: BLM Glossary of Surveying and Mapping Terms published 1980

Reasonably= 1) being in accordance with reason 2) not extreme or excessive

Source: Merriam Webster.

Possible= 1) being within the limits of ability, capacity, or realization 2) being what may be conceived, be done, or occur according to nature, custom, or manners

Source: Merriam Webster.

Facility= 1) the quality of being easily performed 2) ease in performance

Source: Merriam Webster

Document Control

2024-This guide was originally directed to be created at the July 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

2024-2026-Revisions and drafts were circulated for 2 years and then Authorized for publication to the CLSA webpage under the Monument Preservation Tab at the September 2026 BoD meeting.

8-26-2026-The header was updated to include the official version starting with 1.0 for the guide originally published to the webpage.