

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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File No.: 865.10853.

Goldwing Road Riders Association
Chapter CA 1-I
Covina, CA 91723

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, I received your request for information regarding motorcycles pulling trailers in California. The request specifically addressed speed limits and lane controls.

The following California Vehicle Code Sections apply: section 22406 (b) states no person may drive a passenger vehicle or bus drawing any other vehicle on a highway at a speed in excess of 55 miles per hour, section 465 defines a passenger vehicle as any motor vehicle, other than a motor truck, truck tractor, or a bus used or maintained for the transportation of persons, and section 415 (a) defines a "motor vehicle" as a vehicle that is self-propelled.

With regards to lane controls, section 22348 (c) states: A vehicle subject to Section 22406 shall be driven in a lane designated pursuant to Section 21655, or if a lane has not been so designated, in the right-hand lane for traffic or as close as practicable to the right hand edge or curb. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, the driver shall use either the designated lane, the lane to the immediate left of the right hand lane, or the right-hand lane for traffic as permitted under this code. If, however, specific lane or lanes have been designated on a divided highway having four or more clearly marked lanes for traffic in one direction, a vehicle may also be driven in the lane to the immediate left of the right-hand lane, unless otherwise prohibited under this code. This subdivision does not apply to a driver who is preparing for a left or right hand turn or who is in the process of entering into or exiting from a highway or to a driver who is required necessarily to drive in a lane other than the right hand lane to continue on his or her intended route.

In closing, a motorcycle pulling a trailer is required to obey the 55 miles per hour speed limit and is restricted to the right hand lane or lanes and is prohibited from using a carpool/high occupancy vehicle lane if you must violate the lane restriction specified in 21655 to enter or exit the carpool/high occupancy lane. I trust you will share this information with other members of your riding club, and I appreciate you taking the time to inquire regarding these laws. The California Highway Patrol places an emphasis on providing public service and reducing collisions. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.L. Sanders".

R.L. SANDERS, Lieutenant