

Memorandum

*Serious drought.
Help Save Water!*

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Date: September 23, 2016

From: THOMAS A. OSTROM
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Deputy Division Chief
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Subject: UPDATE OF MEMO TO DESIGNERS (MTD) 5-1 "ABUTMENTS"

Effective immediately, Memo to Designers (MTD) 5-1 "Abutments" is approved for use. This MTD provides guidance for design of abutments using the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*, 6th Edition, and corresponding California Amendments (*AASHTO-CA BDS-6*).

The revised memo includes updated information for Structure and Geotechnical Designers regarding LRFD requirements, scour effects, general seismic design requirements, and Mechanically Stabilized Embankment Abutments (MSEA). Implementation of the new Memo should lead to an LRFD compliant, more efficient, and consistent design process. Attachment-I provides estimated lateral capacity for Standard Plan and H-piles that can be used for seismic design of abutment shear keys.

MTD 5-1 shall be used for projects designed according to *AASHTO-CA BDS-6*, and may be helpful to projects in progress and designed based on *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*, 4th Edition. The document has been posted on the publications website (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/techpubs/>).

For questions or concerns, you may contact Technical Committee Chair Amir Malek at (916) 227-5981.

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