

Memorandum

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Be energy efficient!*

To: DES DEPUTIES
Division of Engineering Services
DOLORES VALLS
Division of Maintenance
RAY ZHANG
Division of Local Assistance

Date: March 10, 2014

File:

From: BARTON NEWTON
Deputy Division Chief
Structure Policy & Innovation
Division of Engineering Services



Subject: ***ADOPTION OF THE AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS, SIXTH EDITION WITH THE CALIFORNIA AMENDMENTS.***

Effective March 10th, 2014, the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 2012 (Sixth Edition)* with *California Amendments (AASHTO-CA BDS-6)*, constitutes the primary design specifications for Caltrans bridges and ancillary structures.

For projects under development, adoption of *AASHTO-CA BDS-6* is:

- Not applicable when the Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) has been submitted for advertising, or, the project is under construction.
- Optional if it would not impose a significant delay in the project schedule or a significant increase in the project engineering or construction costs. The project history notes and plans must indicate the design criteria used.
- Mandatory for all projects with scheduled "Ready-to-List" dates (as defined in the FY14-15 Delivery Plan) after December 31, 2015.

Caltrans' Standard Plans and Standard Specifications remain valid for use. If a project under development requires significant deviation from these standards, the design must meet the requirements of *AASHTO-CA BDS-6*.

The State Bridge Engineer shall approve any exception to adopting provisions in the *AASHTO-CA BDS-6* as stated above. This request must be made as early as possible.

AASHTO-CA BDS-6 shall be the basis of all Caltrans guidance material under development.

For questions or concerns on application of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and California Amendments* on a specific project, consultants and local agencies should contact the Structure Liaison Engineer. Caltrans staff may contact the appropriate Technical Committee Chair or Technical Specialist.

DES DEPUTIES, et al.

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