

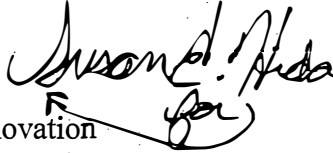
## Memorandum

*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

**To: DES DEPUTIES**  
Division of Engineering Services

**Date:** March 26, 2013

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



**Subject: Update Memos to Designers "20-12, Seismic Design Criteria for Bridge Widening"**

MTD 20-12 has been updated to address questions that arose after the previous version was published in September 2011.

This update to MTD 20-12 expands on how a widening can change the seismic behavior of an existing bridge. It provides the steps to be taken to ensure the existing bridge does not carry the seismic load of the widening. It requires the Project Engineer to send the Office of Earthquake Engineering (OEE) a Seismic Retrofit Assessment Form (SRAF) for each bridge widening describing any seismic analysis that was performed and whether the bridge was retrofitted. For parallel bridges, if only one bridge is widened, it requires the Project Engineer to send an SRAF to OEE describing the potential vulnerabilities that were not addressed on the parallel structure. For Minor Modification Projects where MTD 20-12 doesn't require a retrofit, the Project Engineer must send an SRAF to OEE describing the potential vulnerabilities that were not addressed.

The update to MTD 20-12 should be implemented on all projects with bridge widenings or other bridge modifications not yet type selected. Good seismic practice and good seismic details are necessary to make this Non-Standard type of bridge perform well during earthquakes.

For questions or concerns on application to a specific project, consultants/local Agencies should contact the Structure Liaison Engineer. Caltrans staff may contact Technical Committee Chair/Specialist Mark Yashinsky at (916) 227-8719.

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