

# Memorandum

*Serious drought.  
Help Save Water!*

**To:** STRUCTURE POLICY BOARD  
Deputy Division Chiefs  
Division of Engineering Services

**Date:** December 14, 2016

**File:**

**From:** Thomas A. Ostrom *T.A.O.*  
Office Chief, Structure Policy and Innovation  
Division of Engineering Services

**Subject:** **UPDATE TO MEMOS TO DESIGNERS (MTD) 15-20 LIVE LOAD DISTRIBUTION BY THREE DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS**

The new MTD15-20 replaces the previous version, dated 1988, providing guidance on performing three-dimensional (3D) structural analyses to obtain live load distribution factors for bridge superstructure analysis and design.

MTD 15-20 also provides guidance to update to the software programs available for 3D analyses and more detail on developing 3D models and documenting the results.

All changes are updates to the original memo for consistency with current technology and AASHTO-LRFD Specification requirements.

For questions or concerns on application to a specific project, consultants/local Agencies should contact the Structure Liaison Engineer. Caltrans staff may contact Structural Analysis Committee Chair, Toorak Zokaie, at (916) 227-8579.

**c:** Chief – Division of Design  
Chief – Division of Local Assistance  
Chief – Structure Maintenance and Investigation  
Chief – Division of Engineering Services  
Manual Editor—Structure Policy and Innovation