

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 05, 2021**

The meeting of the ACES/Caltrans DES Structures Liaison Committee was held virtually by WebEx Meeting on February 05, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

I. Call to Order

Garrett Dekker called the meeting in order.

A. Self-Introductions

Self-introductions were skipped since the meeting was held virtually.

Garrett Dekker welcomed everybody and told everybody that the meeting will be recorded and asked everyone to turn their audio to mute if not speaking.

Many new people joined the meeting and Garrett asked new attendees to inform Nien to add their names to the list of attendees for future meeting invites.

For the most part, this committee has primarily focused on bridge PE and PS&E delivery in California.

To incorporate input from construction management and inspection (CM&I), the Committee will add one CM&I member in Southern California and one in Northern California.

Sudhakar is temporarily taking over Emil Vergara's responsibilities to coordinate the Committee activities. Emil retired, and Caltrans will recruit a new senior to take over Emil's role. Sudhakar was happy to see many Geotechnical Engineers in attendance and stated that many people are attending the Seismic Advisory Committee today and cannot attend this ACEC committee meeting.

Due to the large group in attendance, Garrett skipped introductions and asked everybody to introduce themselves as they speak.

B. Changes to Agenda

Garrett shared the agenda and called the meeting to order. There was one change to Agenda Item IV.1, Friction Testing. Updates on Friction Testing will be carried over to the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (10/03/2020)

Garrett asked if anyone had comments on the last meeting minutes. Sudhakar stated that he sent the previous meeting minutes to Caltrans Management and suggested to wait for a week before receiving comments.

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II. DES/ACEC Updates

A. General: Tom Ostrom/Shira Rajendra

Shira summarized recent changes to DES staff. Rich Foley, Division Chief of Structure Construction, is on a temporary assignment in D4 and Mike Francis will be acting as Deputy Division Chief of Construction starting Monday.

In terms of DES outlook, starting in July 2021, most project contracts will be for construction and construction inspection. Shira stated that construction contracts will be very active in the next two to three years.

B. Geotechnical Reporting Standards Updates: Hector Valencia

Hector Valencia, Office Chief of Geotechnical Engineering, provided updates on Geotechnical Reporting Standards. He stated that the reason for reporting standard changes is because current Standards are two to three years old. The PDF version of the presentation will be distributed to Committee members. Hector stated that the geotechnical website has been updated.

Regarding adoption of the 2018 SDC 2.0 USGS Seismic Hazards, Hector stated that accepting the 2018 will take time and it is up to the Seismic Advisory Board to adopt the 2018 Seismic hazards. No timeline has yet been set.

For multiple walls or bridges on the same project, Hector stated that one geotechnical report could be provided to cover all structures.

C. Contracting Opportunities (Look ahead report or Other): Shira Rajendra/Sid Pedaballi

Sid Pedaballi, Office Chief of Office of Contract Management, stated there will be a few upcoming contracts.

- Two structure replacement design contracts, one for Southern California and one for Northern California, will be advertised soon.
- Two materials contracts.
- Three construction contracts: one for survey for Districts 1, 2, and 3, one for District 04, and one for Districts 8 and 9.
- Contracts will be released for transportation architecture, wastewater supply design, on-call survey, and special design.
- Two toll bridge contracts.

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D. Local Assistance: Robert Peterson/Jeremy Wright

Robert Peterson provided updates on Chapter 6 of the Local Assistance Guidelines. Chapter 6 of the guidelines is being updated and published. Robert asked consultants to read it if they work on Local Assistance projects. Any further changes will be updated in January 2022 version.

Robert stated some reforms will take place due to funding constraints. The reform is going through the HBP Advisory Committee and a related meeting will be held in a couple of weeks. When the Committee adopts the changes, the office bulletin will override Chapter 6 of LAPG.

The seismic program is wrapping up and Project Delivery Agreements have been completed. Caltrans had 34 agreements and have approved all except one that they hope to approve this month. If projects are not able to meet the milestones outlined by the PDA, it could result in funding restrictions.

Robert stated that whoever is working on those reforms should reach out to the committees' members for input on how and when the reforms will be conveyed to the public.

Sudhakar added that Imad Abu-Markhieh is taking over for Bob Jones - since Bob has retired - for Districts 7, 11 and 12.

Robert provided input on the low number of new HBP contracts. He stated that this is a trend and not a policy change. Overall financial picture is being evaluated, and over \$300M in construction funding has not been paid in last two years due to funding restrictions. There are many projects that are ready for construction but are on hold.

Robert stated the BIC program is to have the agencies to come up with their own funding and await credits.

Sudhakar agreed to provide the list of Current Caltrans Local Assistance Structure Liaisons to Garrett/ACEC to distribute. Sudhakar stated that the list will be on the Caltrans Website after it is made ADA compliant.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee: Gary Antonucci

The committee met last week, and Gary provided the updates below.

A short training video is available on the Local Assistance (LA) website (<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/training>) that is very informative. Gary encouraged everybody to go to the site to obtain the information they need on LA.

Gary summarized changes to a profit fee calculation tool (<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/ae/2021/profitfee-tool-a11p.xlsx>) that allows up to 15% profit which follows the FHWA guidelines. Gary suggested this tool to be used and any feedback to be communicated to him for consideration.

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The committee also worked out the DBE percentage for on-call contracts. Gary also stated that the DBE performance was 17.25% for last year which is very close to the 17.5% goal.

FHWA started a pilot program for some States to try using their own environmental laws in lieu of NEPA. Caltrans is considering doing something similar but has not reached a decision at this point. They may use the CEQA and not NEPA. Gary will provide more updates to this subject at the next meeting.

Regarding DPAC, recent RFQs have had rate cap language incorporated that has been removed from the templates. Caltrans is working with ACEC to make rate cap language acceptable to consultants.

F. Construction Management and Inspection Updates: John Lammers

John Lammers is acting for Rich Foley. John provided updates on construction inspection.

Richard Yates presented on changes to the Falsework Manual. A PDF copy of the presentation will be distributed to committee members. Richard also went over revisions to Standard Specifications Section 48. One significant change of note, an Engineer of Record is now needed for falsework design.

Bobby Zermeno asked how the wood type used for falsework would be verified. Richard stated that it will be the contractor's responsibility to ensure the wood type selected for falsework is in accordance with the related codes.

Richard provided updates on this year's Caltrans Winter Training workplan. Due to COVID, Caltrans is using an online academy for engineers. For consultants, Richard stated that a 4-hour session could be posted online so engineers can review materials on their own time. The training could take place around the end of April.

III. Sub-committees

A. ABC (Accelerated Bridge Construction): Gary Antonucci/Dorie Mellon

Gary Antonucci stated that the ABC workshop held last December was well received with many in attendance.

Dorie Mellon stated that Caltrans developed the ABC Manual, and it will be publicly available by May 2021. She also stated that Caltrans Design did the first round of review and provided comments to be addressed.

Jack stated that the ACEC committee would like participant in a review of the ABC Manual before the May release. Shira stated that Caltrans will get back to the Committee on whether that can be accommodated.

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Dorie also stated that FHWA wants to promote ABC for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. It will be a two-day workshop by invitation only.

B. CMGC/Design-Build (Lessons Learned): Mark Reno/Sudhakar Vatti

Sudhakar stated that there are no updates at this time.

C. BIM (Building Information Model): Doug Dunrud/Bobby Zermeno

Bobby Zermeno stated that there are no updates at this time but will provide a BIM presentation at the next meeting.

D. Technical Subcommittee: Jack Abcarius/Sudhakar Vatti

Garrett asked when the Concrete Barrier Type 85, which currently is an XS sheet, will be rolled into the standard plans. Sudhakar will provide an update on the barrier in the next meeting.

E. Education Training/Seminar/Webinar: Y. Nien Wang

The 2021 Winter Training will be held virtually in April due to COVID-19. Mark Reno will work with Rob Stott and Richard Yates to confirm the date and agenda items.

The ABC Workshop will be held in the fourth quarter of 2021. Gary/Dorie will provide updates at a later date.

A CMGC Lessons Learned Workshop is planned for the fourth quarter of 2021.

Hector Valencia agreed to provide a Geotechnical Reporting Standard Workshop in the third quarter of 2021. Hector will inform the committee when a presentation is available, likely June or July.

IV. Discussion Items

Friction Testing Updates from METS – Postponed to next meeting discussion.

This year's Western Bridge Engineers' Seminar will be a virtual event on September 13-16, 2021. All are encouraged to submit abstracts. Sponsorship opportunities are currently available.

V. 2021 Meeting Schedule

February 5, 2021 (1st Friday)

May 14, 2021 (2nd Friday)

August 6, 2021 (1st Friday)

October 22, 2021 (4th Friday)

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VI. Distribution:

A. Caltrans:

Tom Ostrom	Caltrans DES
Kevin Keady	Caltrans SPI
Rich Foley	Caltrans SC
Roberto Lacalle	Caltrans GS
Tim Greutert	Caltrans METS
Gudmund Setberg	Caltrans SD
Michael B. Johnson	Caltrans SMI
Shira Rajendra	Caltrans PPM & OE
Sudhakar Vatti	Caltrans OSFP/SLA
Sid Pedaballi	Caltrans OPD & SCM
Emil Vergara	Caltrans OSFP
Robert Peterson	Caltrans HQ/LA
John Lammers	Caltrans SC

B. ACEC Regular Committee Members:

Member 1: Districts 1,2,3,9,10:	Mark Reno	Quincy Engineering
Member 2: District 11:	Jack Abcarius	NV5
Member 3: District 4:	Garrett Dekker	Moffatt & Nichol
Member 4: Districts 7,8,12:	Y. Nien Wang	HNTB
Member 5: Districts 5,6:	Bobby Zermeno	Cornerstone Structural Engineering

VII. Virtual Attendees

Rajendra, Shira	Caltrans - PPM & OE
Lacalle, Roberto	Caltrans - GS
Lammers, John	Caltrans - SC
Keady, Kevin	Caltrans - SP&I
Vatti, Sudhakar	Caltrans - OSFP/SLA
Pedaballi, Siddareddy	Caltrans - PPM
Peterson, Robert	Caltrans HQ/LA
Yates, Richard	Caltrans CM
Choy, Nina	Caltrans
Halencia, Hector	Caltrans Geotech
Mellon, Dorie	Caltrans - ABC
Burlaza, Chris	
Abcarius, Jack	NV5
Wang, Y. Nien	HNTB
Zermeno, Bobby	Cornerstone Engineering
Dekker, Garrett	Moffatt & Nichol
Brown, Eric	Earth Mechanics, Inc.

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Chu, Wellington	HDR
Cole, Jared	Moffatt & Nichol
Firme, Romeo	Kleinfelder
Mosquera, Jessica	Michael Baker International
Rende, Gregory	Rende Consulting Group, Inc.
Sarraf, Majid	Michael Baker International
Thurairajah, Alaheswaran	Earth Mechanics, Inc.
Ambriz, Bernardo	
Amini, Moe	HNTB
Antonucci, Gary	Moffatt & Nichol
Ashley, Mark	T.Y. Lin International
Avila, Cathy	Avila & Associates
Dendall, Scott	PreScience
Dunrud, Doug	WSP
Fish, Bob	T.Y. Lin International
Griggs, Rosa	Dokken Engineering
Hickey, Jason	Mark Thomas & Co.
Issa, Andre	TranSystems
Kaufman, Rick	Mark Thomas & Co.
Kazmi, Syed	AECOM
Kitzmann, David	WRECO
Koo, Wei	WKE, Inc.
McCauley, Scott	
Mcilroy, Martin	MGE Engineering
Moran, Eric	Biggs Cardoso
Newton, Barton	WSP
Ortakci, Emre	
Osterkamp, Tim	Dokken Engineering
Stott, Robert	Caltrop- a TRC Company
Thomure, Jeff	Jacobs
Tom, Jason	HDR
Wang, Frank	