Memorandum

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

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

Date: March 10, 2014

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

Effective March 10, 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 AASH1V-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.
c:  Bob Pieplow, Chief, Division of Engineering Services
    Tim Craggs, Chief, Division of Design
    Sue Hida, Chief, DES SP&I Office of State Bridge Engineer Support
    Roberto Lacalle, Chief, DES SP&I Office of Structure Quality Management
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