Memorandum

To: STRUCTURE POLICY BOARD
   DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEFS

From: THOMAS A. OSTROM
       State Bridge Engineer
       Deputy Division Chief
       Structure Policy and Innovation
       Division of Engineering Services

Date: June 10, 2016

Subject: ADOPTION OF THE CALTRANS SEISMIC DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR STEEL BRIDGES – 2ND EDITION

Effective June 10, 2016, the Caltrans Seismic Design Specifications for Steel Bridges – 2nd Edition (SDSSB) constitutes the seismic specifications for Caltrans steel bridges.

For projects under development, adoption of the SDSSB is:
- Not applicable when the Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) have 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 FY15-16 Delivery Plan) after September 1, 2016.

The SDSSB is supplemental to the current Caltrans Seismic Design Criteria Version 1.7, and shall be applied in conjunction with the current Caltrans adopted AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 2012 (Sixth Edition) and the California Amendments (AASHTO-CA BDS-6).

The State Bridge Engineer must approve any exception to adopting provisions in the SDSSB as stated above. This request must be made as early as possible.

For questions or concerns in application of the SDSSB on a specific project, consultants and local agencies should contact the Structure Liaison Engineer. Caltrans staff may contact the DES Structural Steel Committee Chair.

c: Michael D. Keever, Chief, Division of Engineering Services
   Timothy Craggs, Chief, Division of Design
   Ray Zhang, Chief, Division of Local Assistance
   Dan Speer, Chief, Office of Structure Quality Management
   Mark Mahan, Chief, Office of Earthquake Engineering Analysis & Research
   Shannon Post, Chief, Office of Design and Technical Services
   Amir Malek, Chief(A), Office of State Bridge Engineer Support

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