State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

To: BARTON NEWTON
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Date: December 31, 2008

From: KEVIN J. THOMPSON
Deputy Division Chief
Structure Design
Division of Engineering Services

Subject: Implementation of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Fourth Edition, and California Amendments.*

Effective January 1, 2009, the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Fourth Edition* with ***California Amendments,*** constitutes the primary Caltrans bridge design specifications. This includes geotechnical design of bridge foundations. The specifications and amendments shall be applied to the design of all bridges that have not received Type Selection approval and all Caltrans guidance material under development.

The current California amendments will continue to reference the *BDS LFD Version April 2000* provisions for the design of abutments. Earth retaining and buried structures will follow the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* effective April 1, 2010, for structures designed internally by the State and October 1, 2010 for structures designed by local agencies and consultants.

Exceptions granting the use of *BDS LFD Version April 2000* for structure design within the state right-of-way and beyond those permitted in the California Amendments and for earth retaining and buried structures as discussed in the previous paragraph, must be requested prior to the Type Selection meeting. Documentation supporting the justification for an exception shall be included in the Type Selection Memo and be approved by both Office Chiefs on the Type Selection Committee as well as the State Bridge Engineer and DES Deputy Division Chief of Geotechnical Services.

Any questions regarding the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and California Amendments* should be directed to the respective Caltrans Technical Committee Chair or Specialist of the area of interest or the Caltrans project oversight engineer responsible for the geographic area of your project.

c: SD/SDSEE Senior Engineers