

Memorandum

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To: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF, ENGINEERING SERVICES
ALL HOLDERS OF THE HIGHWAY DESIGN MANUAL
ALL DISTRICT HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS

Date: June 30, 2003

File: 800

From:  KARLA SUTLIFF
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: Design Information Bulletin 83 – Caltrans Supplement to FHWA Culvert Repair Practices Manual

This transmittal memorandum provides notice that the above-referenced Design Information Bulletin (DIB) is now available on the Division of Design website. Any District staff who are involved in the inspection, evaluation or design of culverts or storm drain systems are advised to read and become familiar with the guidance contained in DIB 83.

PURPOSE

Due to the aging of the state highway system and appurtenant structures, many culverts and storm drains are reaching the end of their projected design service life. The need to accurately assess condition and develop plans for the rehabilitation and replacement of these structures is increasing, yet no formal comprehensive Departmental guidance has existed. DIB 83 serves as a source of information on the application of a variety of rehabilitative and replacement strategies, provided within a Caltrans context, that highlights trenchless techniques which minimize traffic disruption.

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BACKGROUND

Prior information available to staff on the subject of culvert replacement and rehabilitation has been provided in the form of DIB 76 "Culvert Rehabilitation Using Plastic Pipe Liners", dated January 5, 1995 and the two-volume Federal Highway Administration document entitled "Culvert Repair Practices Manual", dated May, 1995. The purpose of DIB 83 is to provide updated information on the evaluation, rehabilitation and replacement of culverts and storm drains. DIB 83 supersedes DIB 76 in its entirety, while it acts as a supplement to the information contained in the FHWA document.

As a supplement to the FHWA document, DIB 83 provides both updated information as well as Department specific procedural guidance on culvert material properties, performance and assessment. Direct links to the FHWA document are provided where warranted to eliminate the need for redundancy.

IMPLEMENTATION

The guidance contained in DIB 83 should be viewed as permissive standards, similar to guidance contained in Chapter 800 of the HDM, and should be implemented into projects effective August 1, 2003 in accordance with the provisions of HDM Index 82.5 "Effective Date for Implementing Revisions to Design Standards".

DIB 83 contains information on culvert materials and performance that will supersede information currently contained in Chapter 850 of the Highway Design Manual (HDM). Future updates to the HDM will be brought into conformance with the information in DIB 83.