

# Memorandum

*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

To: STRUCTURE POLICY BOARD

Date: August 19, 2019

From: RUTH FERNANDES *RF*  
State Bridge Engineer (A)  
Deputy Division Chief (A)  
Structure Policy & Innovation  
Division of Engineering Services

Subject: **ADOPTION OF THE AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS, EIGHTH EDITION WITH CALIFORNIA AMENDMENTS**

Effective November 1, 2019, the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Eighth Edition with California Amendments (AASHTO-CA BDS-8)*, constitutes the primary design specifications for California bridges and transportation-related structures.

For projects under development, adoption of *AASHTO-CA BDS-8* is:

- Mandatory for all projects with a Type Selection approval on or after November 1, 2019.
- 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.

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-8*.

The State Bridge Engineer shall approve any exceptions to adopting provisions in the *AASHTO-CA BDS-8* as stated above. This request shall be made as early as possible.

*AASHTO-CA BDS-8* shall be the basis of all Caltrans' guidance material under development.

For questions or concerns on the application of the *AASHTO-CA BDS-8* 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.

*AASHTO-CA BDS-8* is available on the Caltrans' Division of Engineering Services website. If you are not able to locate *AASHTO-CA BDS-8* or any other bridge manual, please contact us at: [manuals.products@dot.ca.gov](mailto:manuals.products@dot.ca.gov).

c: Thomas A. Ostrom, Acting Chief, Division of Engineering Services  
Janice Benton, Chief, Division of Design  
Sue Hida, Chief, DES SP&I Office of State Bridge Engineer Support  
Nina Choy, Chief, DES SP&I Office of Structure Quality Management  
Mark Mahan, Chief, DES SP&I Office of Earthquake Engineering  
Joel Magaña, Chief, DES SP&I Office of Design & Technical Services  
Offices of Bridge Design, DES SD  
Sergio Aceves, Assistant Division Chief, Division of Pavements