

**ACEC / Caltrans Division of Engineering Services
Structures Liaison Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 25, 2012

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MAIN LOCATION: California Department of Transportation
Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Room 102 (Farmers Market 1 Building, 1st Floor)
Sacramento, CA 95816

VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION: District 12 Office, Room 333
3337 Michelson Drive, Irvine

MEETING MINUTES: Shawn M. Cullers

I. Call to Order

A. Self-introductions

B. Changes to Agenda

- *Nien Wang requested to add to Item III C – Technical Workshops to include a discussion on an Educational Committee and how ACEC can contribute to Caltrans education.*
- *Tony Marquez added discussion about changes to Caltrans policy for Certification of local agency cost estimates.*

C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (7/26/12)

- *Section III A - DES Updates to be revised to change Rene Halverson to Division Chief of Office Business Economic Opportunity.*
- *Section III F - Statewide Committee Report to be revised to correctly spell Mark Reno's name.*

II. Status/Reports on Technical Topics

Tracking and Publishing Consultant Questions (Tom Walker/Sudhakar Vatti)

- *Tom Walker updated the committee on the previous meeting discussions and that it had been decided by the committee it would be preferable to publish questions and answers on Caltrans site. Sue Hida noted that it has been problematic posting Caltrans material to Caltrans' website and that, because of limited resources, it would not be feasible to post consultant questions and answers at this time. Barton Newton noted that the answers would not be policy and that a disclaimer on the website should be provided. Currently, the Structures Liaison Committee's meeting minutes are posted to the internet. Sudhakar Vatti noted it can be difficult for users to find specific questions and it would be more user-friendly if the questions were listed under specific topics or by Specialist. .*
- *Barton Newton explained that internally, Caltrans is working to have all specialists and committees post updates on their work to Caltrans Intranet. Eventually, this would include a Q/A section from specialists to reduce consultant and internal*

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project specific questions because many specialists are spending time on project specific items and not working on the creation of policy. Ideally, Caltrans' specialists would complete updating their internal Intranet sites and access to these sites would then be provided from the Internet. Barton noted that the resources available to complete this type of work, and other type of are limited. Because the resources are limited and it will be important to prioritize projects, Caltrans may approach ACEC in the future to help determine which work should have focus.

- *Barton Newton suggested that items continue to be addressed in the ACEC / Caltrans DES Structures Liaison Committee meeting minutes and that new guidance be provided to ACEC for distribution.*
- *Barton Newton suggested a bin list be created within the meeting agenda's so that certain items are placed on hold and not forgotten until action can be taken on them in the future.*

B. Bridge Site Data Submittal – Update OSFP Guidelines (Nien Wang/Jeff DeFevere)

- *Jeff DeFevere noted that Caltrans has updated the Bridge Site Data Submittal forms and these can be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/pi/>. Both Metric and English units are included on the same form.*

C. MSE Wall – SSL Wall Status (Susan Hida)

- *Sue Hida noted that SSL is back on the Caltrans QPL per the memo from DES dated September 11, 2012 available at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/osfp/current-issues/ssl-mse/ssl-memo-2012-09.pdf>.*
- *Barton Newton suggested that bulleted criteria for the review of MSE working drawings be provided in the meeting minutes. Caltrans specialists are looking for specific criteria when reviewing MSE shop drawings and these criteria will need to be provided to the consultants for use in their reviews as well. Sue Hida to provide criteria for incorporation into meeting minutes.*
- *Barton Newton discussed the push from SSL to allow change orders for those walls that were bid during the time that SSL was not on Caltrans' QPL. Barton noted that this would need to be discussed with Rob Stott in Structures Construction. Barton also noted that because SSL was not in the MSE wall specification for the projects that went to bid while they were suspended from the QPL, that in order for SSL to participate in these projects that a project CCO would be required. This CCO's would also require removing another bidder from a previously bid job.*

Action Items:

Sue Hida to provide criteria for review of MSE working drawings for incorporation into meeting minutes.

D. Caltrans Certification of Cost Estimates (Tony Marquez)

- *Tony Marquez discussed how Caltrans historically would take structure cost estimates from consultants and make changes to them for certification for the CTC. Caltrans will no longer be providing certification for local agency projects where a consultant provides PS&E and the funding source is primarily from the local agency. Caltrans will review the estimates but will not make changes to the cost estimates. Caltrans will also be modifying the coop agreements such that the local*

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- agency will be responsible for certifying their cost estimates.*
- *For projects that will be Advertised, Awarded, and Administered by Caltrans, Caltrans will continue to provide certification.*
 - *Tony Marquez explained the reasons for this change are to ensure that the estimator who has the most experience with the project is providing the estimated cost for the project and to place more responsibility on the local agencies and consultants to justify the construction estimates being provided to the CTC. Caltrans cannot provide certification for estimates they have not completed.*
 - *Nien Wang asked if this policy is applicable to both the structures the road portion of the cost estimates. Tony Marquez noted that this only applies to the structure cost estimates. However, Tony noted that this has been discussed with the Districts and they are in agreement with the Structures policy. It will be up to the Districts to update their policies.*
 - *Mark Ashley asked if the CTC has been questioning estimates that come in low. Tony noted that currently the CTC is not questioning low bids, only high bids. Barton Newton noted that there is a concern if the bids are consistently low because there will be less projects programmed than there could have been. Mark Ashley noted that, from the local agencies standpoint, it is important to get the estimate in-line early on the project. If the estimate needs to change late in the project, the agency may not have the money available to accommodate the change.*

III. Updates

A. DES Updates (Tony Marquez)

- *Tim Gubbins is the new Director for District 5. Basem Muallem is the new Director for District 8. Ryan Chamberlain is the new Director of District 12.*
- *Karla Sutliff is Acting Division Chief for DES. Jim Davis has moved back to program project resource management. Joe Caputo is Division Chief of Project Management.*
- *Tony Marquez is retiring at the end of the year. December 31 will be Tony's last day.*
- *Malcolm Dougherty has been made permanent Director of Caltrans and Rick Land has been made the permanent Deputy Chief Director of Caltrans. Chief Engineer position will need to be filled.*
- *Barton Newton discussed the Program Review. Committee gathered information from the public about Caltrans. Based on the information, Caltrans is looking at making changes to become more efficient and to stay current with construction practices such as Construction Management General Contractors (CMGC). Caltrans is looking at implementing new procedures to incorporate CMGC. Information for the Program Review is available at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/prgrev2012.pdf>*
- *Barton Newton discussed current pressures on the highway account and MAP 21. MAP 21 made major structural changes to the federal aid system but maintained the funding levels for the next two years. Barton also noted that we have a record amount of construction and construction administration occurring and this is anticipated to continue for the next few years.*

B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers, Technical Research, IQA (Barton Newton)

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- *Barton Newton provided information about the 7th annual Seismic Conference in Oakland. Abstracts are currently being reviewed.*
- *Barton Newton discussed Caltrans Corporate Work. Caltrans has Project Direct Work and Corporate Work (ie overhead work). Corporate work includes the development of Standards and Guidance. Corporate work is outside of the standard rate charged to local agencies for services. Acting Division Chief has provided the opportunity to pursue increased resources for Corporate Work in the next budget if there is an increase in work. DES's Corporate Work plan includes updating and providing more concise Standards and Guidance.*
- *Barton Newton discussed a current effort for a Strategic Plan for Bridges and Structures. A task force has been created and they are in the beginning stages of developing a strategic plan. Includes everything about bridges and structures; design, construction, seismic, maintenance, inspection, load rating, software, etc. The goal of the strategic plan is to acknowledge the changes occurring within the industry, identify goals for Caltrans bridges and structures in the next 5 years, and identify changes that need to occur to achieve those goals. The task force will also be viewing bridges and structures as an asset and provide recommendations to achieve the longest lasting asset for the lowest life cycle cost. As the task force moves forward in developing the plan, the information will be shared including the development of a comment matrix that includes comments and the responses. Barton also noted that it was discussed internally about having an ACEC and District representative on the task force but it was decided to keep the task force small and to share the information openly as it moves forward.*
 - *Milestone dates include having a Final Plan (not implementation) by March, 2014. This date will likely shift.*
- *Barton Newton discussed the implementation of risk and the development of risk matrices for projects into the estimating of projects for life cycle costs. Jack Young with Caltrans is working on a plan to introduce risk into projects with the goal to reduce subjectivity and increase objectivity.*
- *Barton Newton discussed the implementation of Quality Management Plans in DES. A team has been put together to develop Quality Management Plans. Caltrans is looking at requiring submittals for quality management.*
- *Updates to Memo to Designers:*
 - *11-34 Hinge Curl*
 - *11-25 Post Tensioning Anchorage Zone design*
 - *11-31 Curve PT Bridges*
 - *Caltrans is close to releasing 20-12 for seismic guidance for bridge widening.*
 - *12-1 Review of Steel Bridge Shop Drawings*
- *Bridge Design Practice:*
 - *Caltrans is close to releasing BDP Chapters:*
 - *Chapter 3 – Load and Load Combinations*
 - *Chapter 7 – Post Tension and Prestress Girders*
 - *Chapter 9 – Steel Plate Girders*
 - *Chapter 15- Shallow Foundations*
 - *Chapter 16 – Deep Foundations*
 - *Chapter 21 – Seismic Design of Concrete Bridges*

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- *Caltrans is close to releasing the next Seismic Design Criteria 1.7. SDC 1.7 is currently in final review.*
- *PTI/ASBI has asked Caltrans to adopt their specifications for post-tensioning including flushing, pre-package grout, vents, etc. Committee is reviewing the changes that would need to occur and discussing how much effort would be required to implement.*
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- *Caltrans will be adopting the 6th Edition of AASHTO LRFD specifications. Caltrans is reviewing the California Amendments and will be reducing the number of amendments to the national specification. Barton also noted that he had brought up to AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures the idea of providing a LRFD lite version that could be used for simpler, standard bridges. The LRFD Lite version would be a smaller version of the LRFD code. Barton noted that the subcommittee did not take particular interest in the concept.*
- *Sudhaker Vatti noted that a new ARS Online would be released online in two months. May change current ARS curves due to new ground motions. Barton Newton noted that a Caltrans policy memo will be issued to address which projects currently in design will need to be updated for the new ARS curves.*
- *Steve requested a discussion about requiring more design engineer input during the construction phase of structures projects, particularly those elements that are critical to the safety of the bridge. The California Building Code requires Structure Observation by the design engineer for certain portions of the work during construction. It was noted that there is no policy addressing a type of Structure Observation on Caltrans projects. Barton Newton noted that this topic could be introduced to the task force for the Strategic Plan and see if the task force would make a recommendation to implement such a policy. Nien Wang proposed that ACEC help with the development of language for Construction Support section in OSFP Guidelines. Sudhaker Vatti noted that the cooperative agreements would need to be updated to implement. Discussion should be continued in the next meeting.*

C. Technical Workshops (Nien Wang)

- *Nien Wang noted that at the last meeting it was proposed that Caltrans offer a Structure Design Seminar that incorporates and introduces the new policies and procedures that have been implemented in the last year. This seminar could be followed by a Design/Build workshop. These seminars would occur next year.*
- *Nien Wang noted that for this year, one final hour long seminar could be implemented to discuss the 2010 specifications using an example project. Sudhaker Vatti noted that there should be feedback from construction and the contractors regarding any potential issues of the 2010 specifications. Jack Abcarius noted that, based on feedback he received from the last seminar, that there was too much information provided in the allotted time. Jack suggested that a more hands on seminar with an example project be used. Because of available resources, Caltrans suggested that the consultants could provide an individual who could come into*

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Caltrans and work with Caltrans specification writers. That individual could then provide education to the other consultants. Caltrans would need to get back to ACEC about logistics.

- *Education Seminars for Caltrans – meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Nien Wang proposed that each ACEC region representative provide one suggestion for topics for the Caltrans Education Seminars. Currently the committee is calendared out for the next three to five months.*

Action Items:

ACEC region representatives to provide one discussion topic for Caltrans Education Seminars.

- D. ACEC Updates
 - *No update*
- E. Project Development and Opportunities (Jeff DeFevere)
 - *Four contracts to be advertised for METS in November.*
 - *Statewide Quality Assurance*
 - *Gerald Desmond Bridge IQA*
 - *District 8 Design Build*
 - *Statewide Design Build Source Inspections*
 - *Non-Toll District 4 Construction Inspection – Outreach Dec. 7 \$16.5 million*
- F. Statewide Committee Report (Jim Foster)
 - *Jim Foster provided an overview of Statewide Committee meeting minutes.*

IV. 2012 Meeting Schedule

~~January 20th (Friday)~~

~~April 26th (Thursday)~~

~~July 26th (Thursday)~~

~~October 25th (Thursday)~~

Distribution:

Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans
John Fujimono, Caltrans
Lam Nguyen, Caltrans
Tony Marquez, Caltrans
Rob Stott, Caltrans
Barton Newton, Caltrans
Sue Hida, Caltrans
Mike Kever, Caltrans

Walt LaFranchi, URS Corporation
Wei Koo, WKE
Mark Ashley, TY Lin International
Thomas Post, HNTB
Jay Holombo, TY Lin International
Y. Nien Wang, HNTB
Jim Frost, Simon Wong Engineering
Tom Walker, Mark Thomas & Company

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Dolores Valls, Caltrans
Robert Pieplow, Caltrans
John Stayton, Caltrans
James Davis, Caltrans

Jack Abcarius, Nolte Associates
Chandu Shenoy, Nolte Associates
Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering
Steve Tayanipour, Huitt Zollars
Todd Goolkasian, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.
Greg Zeiss, HDR
Majid Sarraf, TTG
Ayman Salama, TRC
Kevin Coates, WKE
Syed Kazmi, URS
Po Chen, Mark Thomas & Company
Sunny Jhutti, AECOM
Kevin Thompson, Arora
Patricia Preston, Apex Civil Engineering
Greg Brown, HNTB

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SIGN IN SHEET

Date: October 25, 2012

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