



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

**Federal Highway Administration
California Division**

February 10, 2010

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Randell H. Iwasaki, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Structures Maintenance and Investigation
For Barton Newton

Dear Mr. Iwasaki:

This letter is a follow-up to the enclosed agreement between FHWA and Caltrans dated July 8, 2008 which identifies timeline commitments made to complete all scour evaluations and plans of actions (POA) to comply with provisions of National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). Attached are results and comments on work that has been reported up through November 1, 2009 as part of our 2008 Agreement.

Completion of scour evaluations and POAs is extremely important work in that it assures the travelling public that foundations supporting our highway bridges are safe during normal and high flow events. Over 2/3rds of the bridge failures on our nation's highways are due to scour. This is a safety issue requiring the upmost priority to complete work to identify vulnerable bridges and how to address them before, during, and after high water events.

As can be seen from the attachment, Caltrans has some work to complete on the state owned bridges however much of the remaining work is on locally owned bridges. Caltrans has made resources available to local agencies to complete this work and has provided customer service to assist local agencies with technical help. However, statewide compliance with the provisions of the NBIS is mandatory.

With less than ten months remaining to complete the POAs, there must be a concerted effort by all bridge owners in California to reach the November 1, 2010 deadline established in our agreement.

Failure to meet this deadline by bridge owners will force FHWA to consider withholding federal funds until the 2008 Agreement work has been satisfactorily completed.

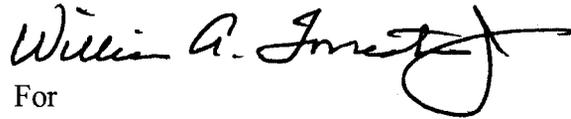
FHWA asks that Caltrans, as stewards of the federal aid program, closely monitor and take all appropriate actions to complete this work in a timely manner to avoid any loss of federal funds. We also will require monthly reporting of progress beginning April 1, 2010. Please send reports to Greg A. Kolle.



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If there are any questions regarding this letter please contact Greg A. Kolle at (916) 498-5852 or greg.kolle@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Jurek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

For
Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.
Division Administrator

Attachment

Attachment:

The reported work for the 2008 Agreement deadlines with observation comments is as follows:

- The deadline for scour evaluations to be completed was November 1, 2008. The total to complete at the time of the agreement was 175 of which 51 were locally owned. By the November 1, 2009 report (enclosed) only 27 bridges of which 25 are locally owned continue to need evaluation. The effort to complete nearly 150 bridges is commendable and assures FHWA the remaining will be completed in short order.

Items to be completed by November 1, 2009 include:

- Evaluation of all bridges with a scour code of "T": Originally, 127 bridges were reported in tidal waters and as of November 1, 2009 only 1 locally owned bridge remains to be evaluated. The effort to complete nearly all the bridges spanning tidal waters is commendable.
- Development of POAs for local agency scour critical bridges: There were 70, all locally owned, scour critical bridges originally reported as needing POAs, however, as reported in November 1, 2009, 87 of which 68 are locally owned still require POAs. The effort to complete POAs for scour critical bridges has been slow and the increase in the number of POAs required is mostly due to an increase in scour critical bridges.

Items to be completed by November 1, 2010 include:

- Complete POA work for all bridges that have been found scour critical during evaluations. The increase in scour critical bridges since the agreement appears to be 12 bridges.
- Complete POAs for all bridges with unknown foundations. Also maintain a tracking system for bridges with unknown foundations with POAs. At the time of the agreement there were 1,729 bridges with unknown foundations of which 1,622 were locally owned. As reported in November 1, 2009 there has been a drop of unknown foundation bridges to 1,397 of which 1,292 are locally owned. Also reported is there are no POAs that have been developed for the bridges with unknown foundations. No progress in this area is alarming.
- A comment on the intent of the agreement for bridges listed as having unknown foundations was to complete the POAs for these bridges and not spend time attempting to find plans or evaluate for scour. Attempting to find plans or to evaluate the bridge foundations for scour would occur after all POAs were completed. There is no time limit established for this work.

11/1/2009 SCOUR CODES

OWNER

113 Code		0,1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8	9	N	T	U	TOTAL
		SCOUR CRITICAL	Bridge Stable, but foundation protection needed	Bridge Stable, Calc'd scour is into piles or footing	Scour evaluation not completed	Counter-measures Installed to reduce risk of failure	Bridge Stable; Calc'd scour is above top of footing	Foundations above flood water elevations	Bridge not over waterway	Bridge over tidal waters. Not evaluated, but low risk	Bridge with "unknown" foundation	TOTAL
STATE	NHS	56	18	990	1	94	1726	28	4560	0	29	7502
	NON-NHS	54	21	548	1	38	937	22	2977	0	76	4674
	TOTAL	110	39	1538	2	132	2663	50	7537	0	105	12176
LOCAL	NHS	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	10
	NON-NHS	356	7	2661	25	98	6484	20	815	1	1292	11759
	TOTAL	356 ^A	7	2662	25 ^B	98	6487	20	821	1	1292 ^C	11769
TOTAL		466	46	4200	27	230	9150	70	8358	1	1397	23945
STATE POAS RECEIVED				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOCAL POAS RECEIVED				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		379	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	379

Notes

^ATotal includes State Park (8), Forest Service (4) and "I" Bridges (1)

^BNo First Report Archived to date. Evaluation not completed.

^CTotal includes State Park (34), Forest Service (5) and "I" Bridges (4)