

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 23, 2015
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

Action items in bold text

I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions – See sign-in sheet. Mark Ashley announced that Consultant Chair for next year will be Gary Antonucci, and Secretary will be Nien Wang. The consultants will conduct a conference call to discuss rotation of committee representatives.
- B. Changes to Agenda – Item II.A.2 (Local Agency Design-Build Workshop) tabled until later date, Caltrans Policy Update substituted.
- C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (07/24/15) – Approved, will be posted on website.

II. Old Business

- A. Technical Workshops:
 - 1. Follow-up on 2010 Specifications Training – (Jack Abcarius)
Jack Abcarius reported that the first workshop was well-received, and noted that attendees for future workshops should have some basic experience with specifications in order to get the most out of it. The voluntary attendance of Ruth Fernandez in person was extremely beneficial, and very much appreciated by the consultants. It was felt that a webinar format for this workshop would not be effective, since face-to-face interaction is very important. The handouts are available electronically and can be requested directly from Jack Abcarius via e-mail. **Jack Abcarius to arrange next workshop for Northern California in early 2016.** Possible venue is AECOM's office in Sacramento.
 - 2. Caltrans Policy Update (Nien Wang)
Nien Wang suggested that a Steel Bridge Practice and Caltrans Policy Update be conducted in a webinar/satellite site format, approximately three hour duration. Possible date is February 2016. **Nien Wang to take lead in organizing, Tom Ostrom to participate.**

B. Caltrans Education Committee (Mark Ashley)

Mark Ashley reported that a BIM presentation was made to the committee earlier in the week, and some consultants were in attendance. The information was beneficial, but it was suggested for future reference that an engineer should lead the presentation on that subject rather than an architect. Mike Keever stated that AASHTO and FHWA are beginning to get involved in BIM applications for bridges, and are reviewing standards and software. Mark Ashley said that there are still opportunities for consultants to present at future meetings. The next meeting will be November 4 – **Mark Ashley to distribute flyer.**

C. Winter Training (Mark Ashley)

Mark Ashley said that the training for consultants will potentially be conducted in the third week of April, 2016. This year's subject will be Trenching and Shoring. **Mark Reno to take lead in organizing, and coordinate with Steve Altman.**

III. Recurring Business

A. DES Updates

Shira Rajendra reviewed staff changes, including Matthew Brady – Acting Chief of DES, and Tom Ostrom – new State Bridge Engineer. Shira thanked Mark Ashley for his service as Chair of the committee this year.

Steve Altman briefly summarized the recent incident on SR91. He reported that a simple span structure, built high to be lowered into place, had its temporary support system collapse during a jacking operation. Caltrans and the project sponsor (RCTC) are investigating.

Mike Keever reported that Caltrans is starting a team to research life-cycle cost analysis, which may include new maintenance strategies. Shira Rajendra added that Caltrans will be moving to an asset management program by 2020.

B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers (Tom Ostrom), Technical Research (Tom Ostrom), ~~IQA (Tom Ostrom)~~

Tom Ostrom distributed information on Caltrans' strategic direction and reviewed the top five objectives. He also discussed maintenance and precast girder issues, and noted that Caltrans is launching an initiative on innovation and efficiency.

He announced that the 2015 Specifications will be released on October 30, and the implementation date for RTL projects will be July 1, 2016. In addition, he said that AASHTO is considering a three-year cycle for design specifications, with no interims, and possibly electronic versions only.

Tom Ostrom stated that the MTD for T-head rebar will be re-issued. He also said that Caltrans is researching Grade 80 rebar, the rewrite of MTD 20-4 is about 50% complete, and MTD's 20-14 and -15 (Liquefaction) are being rewritten. He reported that FHWA is recommending that scour data be added to plans – guidelines will be issued, and MTD 1-23 will be updated. In addition, AASHTO is issuing barrier and railing updates, and new crash tests will be required.

With regard to Technical Research, Tom Ostrom said that the committee met last week to select the items for this year, and that research is trending toward performance-based design.

C. CT Abut Update (Tom Ostrom)

Tom Ostrom said that Caltrans is planning internal release in January 2016 and is still working on security issues. When those are solved, the software will ultimately be available through the OSFP website.

D. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities (Shira Rajendra)

Shira Rajendra said that the Lookahead Report needs to be updated, but that the following contracts are expected to be advertised: Design (Nov 2015), Geotechnical (Nov 2015), Standard Plans/Technical Services (Dec 2015), Coronado Bridge Substructure (Feb 2016).

E. Statewide ACEC Committee Update (Gary Antonucci)

Gary Antonucci reported that Caltrans A&I is conducting audit and FAR training and that Local Assistance is conducting a second round of consultant selection/contract training. Caltrans' overall DBE commitment at award is 11.3%, and A&E commitment at award is 18.1%. The consultant community is working with A&I to clarify uncompensated overtime requirements. DPAC is re-starting the selection process pilot program with three District 43 contracts. The results will be reviewed and the policy will be implemented if the District 43 process is satisfactory. Consultants raised a concern about inconsistent qualification requirements among the Districts for Assistant RE's and inspectors. DPAC is investigating and will report back.

IV. New Business

A. Element-Level Inspection (Sudhakar Vatti)

Sudhakar Vatti said that SMI had a conflict with this meeting, but stated to him that the differences in SR values are because of mandated changes in MAP21. SMI will have an internal meeting next month to discuss observed impacts and interpretation, and may report at the next committee meeting.

B. Local Assistance Manual Updates (Sudhakar Vatti)

Sudhakar Vatti reported that manual revisions are still in process, and an update may be given at the next committee meeting. Jack Abacarius asked if the revisions would include direction regarding use of 2006 specifications. Sudhakar Vatti responded that direction had been sent to local agencies, but Caltrans will follow up one more time. There is still a question regarding whether funding reimbursement would be jeopardized or not.

C. Static Load Testing of CISS Piles (Shawn Cullers)

Sean Cullers said that the current LRFD amendments require static load testing on CISS piles with diameter greater than 36 inches, and clarification was being sought, since this could be costly for small projects. **Sean Cullers to prepare memo summarizing the question, and Tom Ostrom will investigate and report to the committee.**

D. Other Items

Jack Abacarius stated that there are differences being seen on calculated flood flow volumes (depending on agency and criteria used) and confusion on how it affects HBP projects. It was

also noted that similar issues arise on projects involving the Corps of Engineers. He asked that a Caltrans Hydraulic expert attend the next committee meeting to address questions and expectations. **Jack Abcarius to summarize questions and Tom Ostrom will arrange for a Caltrans representative to attend the next meeting.**

V. 2016 Meeting Schedule

January 29, 2016 (4th Friday)

May 13, 2016 (2nd Friday)

July 29, 2016 (5th Friday)

October 28, 2016 (4th Friday)