

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

**MEETING MINUTES (~~DRAFT~~FINAL)**

**DATE:** July 26, 2012

**TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

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

**MEETING MINUTES:** John Woelfel / Nien Wang

**I. Call to Order**

- A. Nien initiated self-introductions, kicking off the meeting.
- B. Changes to Agenda
  - *Nien suggested that it would be more efficient to review content of corresponding Previous Meeting Minute content as we work our way through today's discussion topics, participants concurred with this approach.*
- C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes
  - *Refer to below content, where varied Previous Meeting Minute related observations are identified. Final publications of the Previous Meeting Minutes are to include a copy of the new CADD Guidelines, and Sudhakar is to review proposed final revisions, prior to posting.*

**II. Status/Reports on Technical Topics**

- A. Tracking and Publishing Consultant Questions (Tom Walker)
  - *Tom noted that for time being, we'll continue with past approach of having the Committee post questions within the Meeting Minutes, until such time as Caltrans websites are updated with specialist web page content. A second option would be that of using an online depository of questions and answers.*
- B. Bridge Site Data Submittal – Update OSFP Guidelines (Nien Wang/John Fujimoto)
  - *Nien Wang noted that Caltrans will be providing BSDS files on the OSFP website. John Fujimoto noted that the OSFP Information and Procedures Guide Section 4-1 makes reference to editable documents (Attachment 4-1.1). The document is currently inactive and will be re-activated following a conversion to English units. Until the link is re-activated, John noted that the Caltrans Liaison Engineer can provide Attachment 4-1.1 to the consultants.*
- C. MSE Wall -- SSL Status Update
  - *It was reported that Dr. Barsom of Pittsburg, PA had completed an independent,*

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*forensic analysis of the SSL MSE Wall failures, reaching the conclusion that embrittlement of bent bars at panel connections represented the root cause of these failures, where deformed bars bent at tight radius resulted in crack propagation. With the new detail developed by SSL, this issue has now been resolved. SSL has also provided a listing of California constructed SSL walls, which has generally been confirmed to appear to be comprehensive, and SSL has been encouraged by Caltrans to be proactive in alerting existing SSL wall owners of this structural integrity concern. Permits required for core drilling remain outstanding, and D20 wire connection components are still under investigation. It was noted that the D20 wires connected to the panels are all fortunately located below grade, and therefore structural integrity is not at question. SSL remains removed from the Prequalified Products Listing, and it is understood that SSL's Quality Management Plan resubmittal will help avoid similar future circumstances.*

### **Action Items:**

*Caltrans to provide update at next meeting.*

- D. 80 Ksi Rebar in Bridges (Susan Hida)
- *Nien requested a summary e-mail from Susan on this topic, where a project specific application is not the general policy.*

### **Action Items:**

*Susan - The use of Gr. 80 reinforcing steel has not been adopted for general use. If it is allowed, it is likely to be limited to non-capacity-protected and non-ductile seismic components.*

- E. AMC, BART Aerial Structure, SAP Modeling of Superstructure and Foundation (Ming Chen)
- *Ming reported that this analysis resulted in conclusion that the pile demands came from column shear demand, around 20-30% higher. Ming indicated that this effect is greater when you have more significant mass, where in this case the pile cap mass was considerable. Clarification is needed on when this procedure is to be applied, a rigid body analysis, in defining foundation forces likely to be experienced. Caltrans will look into it and implement it in the updated criteria, if needed.*

## III. Updates

- A. DES Updates (Jeff DeFevere)
- *Jeff provided a brief summary of recent changes within DES since our last meeting. Ryan Chamberlain is now Division Chief of Planning. Rene Halverson is now ~~Assistant Director~~ [Division Chief](#) of Office Business Economic Opportunity. District Directors in Districts 5 & 8 have retired. Rachel Falsetti is Acting Director for District 5. Syed Raza is Acting District Director For District 8*
- B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers, Technical Research, IQA (Susan Hida)
- *The following Memos to Designers are eminent:  
2-12 Special Design Earth Retaining Systems Numbering*

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*5-12 Earth Retaining Systems Using Ground Anchors*  
*5-14 Review of Shop Drawings for Ground Anchors*  
*12-2 Guidelines for Identification of Steel Bridge Members*  
*20-8 Analysis of Ordinary Bridges that Cross Faults*

- *An update to BDA Section 6 Precast Sections is also eminent.*
- *A new BDA is planned on hinge joints.*
- *SDCv1.7 is planned for this fall.*

### C. Technical Workshops:

- *Structure Construction, Winter Training Seminar, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Update*  
*Nien provided an overview of this Prestressing / Deck Construction seminar and noted there was very strong turnout and most appreciative feedback. This was the second time using a webinar format, which proved to be more efficient than last years' approach, where Trainers invested such effort in multiple locations, at different times. The webinar format allowed for a large crowd and minimized travel time for attendees. John Woelfel reported that the largest turnout occurred at HNTB's Orange County Office Training Room, where over 50 participants from consultant engineering, construction contractor, and Local Agency representatives benefitted from this meaningful joint investment in assuring quality bridge construction, that can be built in an efficient manner, constructed correctly without need for remedial action.*

*Rob Stott expressed OSC's continued willingness to provide a similar training outreach event next year, where during 2013 the scheduled topic will again have a technical focus, this time on safety-critical falsework construction procedures. Rob added that OSC plans to include the requirement for completing a web based training application, prior to participation in the training sessions.*

- *Nien suggested an "industry update" session, to include Local Agencies and focus on highlighting an overview of current standards, what has changed in the last 2 years. Nien suggested Caltrans Design-Build Procedures also be considered for a future industry outreach.*

### **Action Items:**

*Conference call is required to further distill this recommendation*

### D. ACEC Updates

- *Invoicing on Caltrans Contracts (John Fujimoto, Mark Ashley)*  
*Currently awaiting Caltrans response to findings/recommendations delivered previously. No new information presented during this meeting.*

*There was a Statewide effort to make the contract management process electronic and that the ACEC-DES effort would be tabled for now to see what comes out of the greater statewide effort.*

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- E. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities (Jeff DeFevere)
- *Not aware of any upcoming design contracts*
  - *Two GS contracts close to being advertised*
  - *Working on upcoming METS contracts.*
- F. Statewide Committee Report (Mark Reno)
- *Lance Schrey reported for ~~Mark~~ Mark and stated that the current downturn in design is anticipated to continue, though construction is at an all-time high, over 11 Billion of active construction. Currently under evaluation by Caltrans is the uninsurable contract language requiring the “highest standards of care.” Jeff Morales is now the new leader of the California High Speed Rail organization. Lastly, Local Agency auditing guidelines are being prepared, where intent will be to require that Prime Consultants “verify” Subconsultant provided information.*

### **IV. 2012 Meeting Schedule**

~~January 20<sup>th</sup> (Friday)~~

~~April 26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)~~

~~July 26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)~~

October 25<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

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

### **Distribution:**

Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans  
John Fujimono, Caltrans  
Lam Nguyen, Caltrans  
Tony Marquez, Caltrans  
Rob Stott, Caltrans  
Barton Newton, Caltrans  
Sue Hida, Caltrans  
Mike Keever, Caltrans  
Dolores Valls, Caltrans  
Robert Pieplow, Caltrans  
John Stayton, Caltrans  
James Davis, 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  
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: July 26, 2012

NAME	INITIAL	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
James Davis		CT-DES	James.Davis@dot.ca.gov
Tony Marquez	<i>TM</i>	CT-DES	Tony_Marquez@dot.ca.gov
Rob Stott	<i>RNS</i>	CT-DES-SC	Rob.Stott@dot.ca.gov
Bob Pieplow		CT	Bob_Pieplow@dot.ca.gov
Dolores Valls		CT	Dolores_Valls@dot.ca.gov
Barton Newton		CT	Barton.Newton@dot.ca.gov
Susan Hida	<i>SH</i>	CT	susan_hida@dot.ca.gov
Juliana Chang	<i>JC</i>	CT-DES Contract MgmtSupport	juliana_susilo@dot.ca.gov
Lam Nguyen		CT-DES	Lam_Nguyen@dot.ca.gov
Jeff DeFevere	<i>JDF</i>	CT-DES	jeff_defevere@dot.ca.gov
John Fujimoto	<i>JF</i>	CT-DES	john_fujimoto@dot.ca.gov
Sudhakar Vatti		CT-DES	Sudhakar.Vatti@dot.ca.gov
Mark Reno		Quincy Engineering	markr@quincyeng.com
Todd Goolkasian		Cornerstone	tgoolkasian@cseg.com
Shawn Cullers		Cornerstone	scullers@cseg.com
Walt LaFranchi	<i>WDL</i>	URS	walt.lafranchi@urs.com
Mark Ashley		TY Lin International	Mashley@tylin.com
Wei Koo		WKE	Wkoo@Wkoo.com
Jim Frost		Simon Wong Engineering	jfrost@simonwongeng.com
Tom Walker	<i>TW</i>	Mark Thomas & Co.	TWalker@markthomas.com
Y. Nien Wang	<i>YNW</i>	HNTB	ywang@hntb.com
Chandu Shenoy		Nolte	Chandu.Shenoy@nv5.com
Jack Abcarius		Nolte	Jack.Abcarius@nv5.com
Jay Holombo		TY Lin International	jay.holombo@tylin.com
Ming-Chen(M.C.) Yu	<i>MCY</i>	AMC Consulting Engineers, Inc.	mcyu@amccon.com

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Lance Schrey	Quincy Engineering, Inc.	<i>Lance S @ quincyeng.com</i>
John Babcock	CT - structure construction	<i>john-babcock@dot.ca.gov</i>
Patricia Presta	APEX CIVIL	<i>patricia.presta@apexcivil.com</i>

