



1.1 SCOPE, APPROVAL, AND IMPLEMENTATION

1.1.1 GENERAL

This BDM addresses the scope, approval, and implementation of the Bridge Design Memos (BDMs).

The BDMs have been developed by Caltrans Technical Teams, Technical Committees, and Technical Specialists to provide guidance and direction to project engineers and designers.

BDMs have been organized to closely align with the organization of *AASHTO-CA BDS-8*.

1.1.2 SCOPE

BDMs provide guidance and direction to designers to efficiently and consistently implement the design specification requirements and may include:

- Design tools, such as tables, charts, graphs, and brief examples
- Suggested step-by-step design processes and checklists
- Best practices, commentary, history, and lessons learned
- Derivations of formulae and theories

1.1.3 APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION DATE

BDMs are approved by the Deputy Division Chief for Structure Design. The official date of approval and publication is on the last day of the month and year shown in the header of the BDM. BDMs may be added, updated, or withdrawn at any time.

1.1.4 IMPLEMENTATION

Project engineers and designers are expected to follow the guidance and direction in the BDMs unless approval is obtained from the responsible Branch Chief. To encourage innovation and consistency, the Branch Chief should inform the Office Chief of any deviations from the BDMs. Implementation of a new or updated BDM after Type Selection approval is recommended but not required.



1.1.5 CONTACTS

For questions or concerns regarding the application of a BDM on a specific project, contact the appropriate Technical Team Chair, Committee Chair, or Technical Specialist.