

## Message to our Consultant Partners:

The Caltrans Geotechnical Manual documents the Department's standards of practice for geotechnical investigations, design, and reporting. The Geotechnical Services (GS) subdivision of the Division of Engineering Services is responsible for the manual's development and maintenance. The manual's content is continually evolving as GS identifies and implements updated standards and best practices.

Each manual module, or chapter, has an accompanying "Implementation Date", which represents the month when staff are required to use the standards of that module in their work. For example, staff are required to implement all requirements of a module with Implementation Date of January 2021 for all work products produced on or after January 1, 2021.

For our consultant partners, the Department is providing a grace period for implementation as follows:

- In cases where updates to a module are deemed significant, the manual will include both the updated and existing module for a period of six months. The consultants may use either version in their work, but may not use partial sections from both. The grace period is provided to allow the consultant community to review and digest the updated standards of practice. Upon completion of the six-month grace period, the old version of the module will be removed from the manual and archived.
- In cases where the updates to a module are minor, the updated module will be posted and the previous module will be removed immediately. There is no grace period for implementation.

To assist staff and consultants, each module has an accompanying "Revision Log", which documents the changes from one version to the next. You are encouraged to review the revision logs as they will help direct the reader to the specific changes for each module.

Thank you