

# Memorandum

**To:** STRUCTURE POLICY BOARD  
Deputy Division Chiefs  
Division of Engineering Services

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**From:** JAMES FOSTER JR *James Foster Jr*  
Deputy Division Chief  
Structures & Engineering Services  
Division of Engineering Services

**Subject:** **IMPLEMENTATION OF SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA VERSION 2.1**

Effective February 1, 2025, all ordinary and recovery bridges without previous Type Selection approval shall be designed in accordance with Caltrans Seismic Design Criteria Version 2.1 (SDC 2.1). All projects with a Type Selection approval before February 1, 2025, shall have the option to either continue using the SDC version approved at the time of Type Selection or may use SDC 2.1 at the discretion of the Project Engineer.

SDC Version 2.1 incorporates technical revisions, clarifications, additional design provisions and editorial enhancements to SDC Version 2.0. A summary of changes for SDC 2.1 and the comprehensive document may be found at:

<https://des.onramp.dot.ca.gov/office-earthquake-engineering-analysis-research>.

This memo should be forwarded to all staff as applicable. For questions or concerns regarding the technical content of the SDC, Consultants and Local Agencies should contact the Caltrans Structure Liaison Engineer. Caltrans staff may contact the Branch Chief of Seismic Design Criteria Development, Christian Unanwa, at christian.unanwa@dot.ca.gov.

c: Eric Souza, Chief (A) – Division of Design  
Dee Lam, Chief – Division of Local Assistance  
Bobbi Hettick, Chief (A) – Division of Maintenance  
Rich Foley, Chief – Division of Engineering Services  
Robert Nelson, Deputy Division Chief – DES Administration  
Chris Traina, Office Chief – Earthquake Engineering, Analysis, & Research

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