



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Backwater Criterion for  
Hydraulic Design of Structures

Date: APR 21 1992

From: Associate Administrator for  
Program Development

Reply to HNG-31  
Attn. of:

To: Regional Federal Highway Administrators  
Federal Lands Highway Program Administrator

Our April 2, 1986, memorandum, Subject: Design Standards for Highways in National Flood Insurance Program Mapped Floodplains, which provided guidance on the use of the 1-foot standard backwater criterion in the hydraulic design of structures over streams, is hereby rescinded for all except Interstate completion and Interstate new construction and reconstruction projects. For all other projects, State highway agencies may use backwater criterion determined in accordance with their respective laws.

Anthony R. Kane