



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOUR MILLION POUNDS OF STEEL TO BE HOISTED IN PRE-HOLIDAY CONSTRUCTION

Latest Sections Will Bring SAS Tower to 71 Percent of Final 525-Foot Height

Oakland, December 15, 2010 – The holidays will come early for the Bay Bridge as the third set of tower sections for the iconic Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) are placed during a round-the-clock lift scheduled to begin this morning. These sections will bring the tower up to nearly three-quarters of its final 525-foot-tall height.

The latest set of four tower sections arrived in the Bay Area on December 13. The tower is made up of four independent legs, each of which is composed of five vertical sections. The third set of tower sections will bring the tower up to 374 feet tall, just shy of the original East Span's high point of 388 feet. The new set of tower segments are 101.7-foot-tall and each one weighs approximately 1.1 million pounds. While the tower will rise nearly 38 stories above the bay, that is only 71 percent of the tower's final height, already making it taller than Coit Tower (210 feet), the Campanile at U.C. Berkeley (307 feet) and the Tribune Tower (310 feet). When completed, the SAS will take its place on the list of iconic Bay Area landmarks.

Two strand jacks will hoist each section about 40 stories into the air, so that each segment can be moved into the erection tower just above the first two sections of the tower. Once the third section is lowered into place, crews will bolt the third and second sections together using splice plates.

Crews will work around the clock, using two 12-hour shifts, to erect all four tower sections; it takes approximately 30 hours to lift, place and bolt each section and then lower the strand jacks into position before the next section can be lifted. The work is expected to be completed during the week of December 19.

Crews placed the first tower sections onto the foundation in July 2010, and the second set in October 2010. The arrival of the final group of tower sections is expected in February 2011.

For more information visit BayBridgeInfo.org/projects/sas-tower.

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