

APPENDIX C: Letter to Interested Parties

April 29, 2008



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Environmental Studies and
Preliminary Design for a
Suicide Deterrent System on the
Golden Gate Bridge
Contract No. 2006-B-17

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) is conducting a study of its proposed Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project (Project) [04-MRN-101-GGHT, Project 2006-B-17; Federal Project #: STPL-6003(030)]. The District, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is the Lead Agency and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the project, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The District has formed a consultant team to perform preliminary engineering and environmental technical studies to meet these state and federal environmental requirements. JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, is part of this team and is preparing a technical study of the historic architectural and engineering resources in the proposed project area. Historical resources are those properties potentially eligible, determined eligible, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or the California Register of Historical Resources. The Golden Gate Bridge and its contributing elements comprise a historic property that is eligible for listing in the National Register and is considered historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

The District is evaluating five alternatives and a "no-build" alternative for the proposed Project; and descriptions of these alternatives are attached. For additional project information, or to receive copies of this information via regular mail, please visit the project website at: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org, or call me at (415) 923-2023. If you or your organization has any concerns regarding this Project, including its potential effects on this historical resource, please respond in writing to me at the address below citing your concerns within the next thirty days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

Jeffrey Y. Lee, PE
Project Manager

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

PROJECT TITLE: Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System
[04-MRN-101-GGHT, Project 2006-B-17; Federal Project #: STPL-6003(030)]

PROJECT LOCATION: Golden Gate Bridge

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project (the Project) under study in this report proposes the construction of a physical suicide deterrent system on the Golden Gate Bridge to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with jumping off the Bridge.

The first phase of the Project evaluated several conceptual designs for their performance during high winds to determine which concepts would and would not affect the aerodynamic stability of the Bridge. Meteorological and topographical analyses of wind hazards specifically associated with the Bridge site found that the Bridge could be subjected to winds of up to 100 miles per hour. Very small changes in the shape of the Bridge cross-sections (including the spacing and design of rail and fence elements) can have a significant impact on the Bridge's aerodynamic stability during high winds. Conceptual designs that negatively affected the aerodynamic stability of the Bridge under high winds were eliminated from further consideration, in accordance with the Board's established criterion that mandated maintenance of the aerodynamic stability of the Bridge.

Project alternatives were also developed to meet the following District Board-adopted criteria:

1. Must impede the ability of an individual to jump off of the Golden Gate Bridge.
2. Must not cause safety or nuisance hazards to sidewalk users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, District staff, and District contractors/security partners.
3. Must be able to be maintained as a routine part of the District's ongoing Bridge maintenance program and without undue risk of injury to District employees.
4. Must not diminish ability to provide adequate security of the Golden Gate Bridge.
5. Must continue to allow access to the underside of the Bridge for emergency response and maintenance activities.
6. Must not have a negative impact on the wind stability of the Golden Gate Bridge.
7. Must satisfy requirements of State and Federal historic preservation laws.
8. Must have minimal visual and aesthetic impact on the Golden Gate Bridge.
9. Must be cost effective to construct and maintain.
10. Must not, in and of itself, create undue risk of injury to anyone who comes in contact with the Suicide Deterrent System.
11. Must not prevent construction of a moveable median barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Five build alternatives have been developed that would impede the ability of individuals to jump from the Bridge, that incorporate the wind study findings, and that meet the District criteria:

- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge
(Add Net System)

Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail. Alternative 1A would construct a new barrier on top of the outside handrail (and concrete rail at north pylon). The barrier would extend 8 feet vertically from the top of the 4-foot high outside handrail for a total height of 12 feet. The barrier's vertical members would be comprised of vertical rods attached to the outside handrail. The top horizontal header would consist of a chevron-shaped member matching the top element of the outside handrail. The entire system would be constructed of steel that would be painted International Orange, matching the material and color of the outside handrail. Transparent vertical panels would be installed in lieu of the steel rods at the slightly wider sections of the sidewalks which are referred to as "belvederes." There are a total of twelve belvederes on each side of the Bridge.

Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail. Alternative 1B would construct a new barrier on top of the existing outside handrail (and concrete rail at north pylon). The new barrier would consist of horizontal steel cables similar to the existing public safety railing ("bike rail" between sidewalk and traffic lanes). The new barrier would extend 8 feet above the top of the 4-foot high outside handrail for a total height of 12 feet. The entire system would be constructed of steel that would be painted International Orange, matching the material and color of the outside handrail. Transparent vertical panels would be installed in lieu of the steel cables at the belvederes.

A "winglet" would be placed on top of the new barrier to ensure aerodynamic stability and to prevent climbing over the barrier. The winglet would be a 42-inch wide transparent panel with a slight concave curvature extending approximately 2 feet over the sidewalk. The winglet would run the length of the suicide deterrent barrier, except at the north and south towers.

Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System. Alternative 2A would construct a new vertical 12-foot high barrier consisting of vertical steel rods in place of the existing outside handrail. The top horizontal header would consist of a chevron-shaped member matching the top element of the outside handrail to be removed. The vertical rods would be attached to the header and bottom barrier element. The entire system would be constructed of steel that is painted International Orange, matching the material and color of the outside handrail. Transparent vertical panels would be installed at the belvederes on both sides of the Bridge.

Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System. Alternative 2B would construct a new 12 foot high barrier consisting of horizontal steel cables in place of the existing outside handrail. The horizontal steel cables used in the new barrier would be similar to the existing public safety railing (“bike rail” between sidewalk and traffic lanes). The entire system would be constructed of steel that would be painted International Orange, matching the material and color of the outside handrail. Transparent vertical panels would be installed at the belvederes on both sides of the Bridge.

A “winglet” would be placed on top of the new barrier to ensure aerodynamic stability and to prevent climbing over the barrier. The winglet would be a clear 42-inch wide transparent panel with a slight concave curvature extending approximately 2 feet over the sidewalk. The winglet would run the length of the suicide deterrent barrier, except at the north and south towers.

Alternative 3 – Add Net System. Alternative 3 would construct a horizontal net system approximately 20 feet below the sidewalk at the exterior main truss. The net would extend approximately 20 feet horizontally from the Bridge, constructed with a stainless steel cable netting incorporating a grid between 4 and 10 inches. The horizontal support system would connect directly to the exterior truss and be supported by cables back to the top chord of the truss. The support system for the netting would include cables that would pre-stress the netting to help keep it taut and not allow the wind to whip the netting. The horizontal net would consist of independent 25-foot sections that can be rotated vertically against the truss to allow the maintenance travelers to be moved. The net and the steel horizontal support system would be painted to match the International Orange bridge color. With this alternative there would be no modifications to the above deck Bridge features.

No-Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative represents the future year conditions if no other actions are taken in the study area beyond what is already in place. It is the baseline condition against which all other alternatives are compared. The No-Build Alternative would continue the existing non-physical suicide deterrent programs at the Bridge, which include emergency counseling telephones, public safety patrols, and employee training.

Distribution List for Historic Resources Interested Parties

Federal, State, & Local Government Agencies:

Katry Harris (Transportation)
Kelly Yasaitis Fanizzo (National Park Service)
Katharine R. Kerr (Presidio Trust)
Carol Legard (FHWA Liaison)

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Compliance Office
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 809, Old Post Office Building
Washington, DC 20004

Milford Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer

California Office of Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Craig Kenkel, Chief of Cultural Resources

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

National Park Service

Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Ric Borjes, Federal Preservation Officer

The Presidio Trust

34 Graham Street
San Francisco, CA 94129

Tilly Chang, Deputy Director for Planning

Brian Larkin, Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

100 Van Ness Ave # 26
San Francisco, CA 94102

M. Bridget Maley, President
Mark Luellen, Preservation Coordinator
San Francisco Planning Department
Landmark Preservation Advisory Board

1650 Mission St., Ste. 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Including members: Robert W. Cherney,
Lily Chan, Courtney Damkroger,
Ina Dearman, Karl Hasz, Johanna Street

David Alumbaugh, Manager
Joshua Switzky, Built Environment Lead

San Francisco Planning Department

City Design Group

1650 Mission St., Ste. 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Alex Hinds, Director
County of Marin
Community Development Agency
3501 Civic Center Dr., Rm #308
San Rafael, CA 94903

Other Interested Parties:

American Indian Alliance, Marin
P.O. Box 150565
San Rafael, CA 94915

Margie O'Driscoll, Executive Director
American Institute of Architects
Preservation Committee
130 Sutter Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94102

American Society of Civil Engineering
Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Program
Carol Reese
1801 Alexander Bell Drive
Reston, VA 20191-4400

Anne T. Kent California Room
Civic Center Branch, Marin County Free Library
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 427
San Rafael, CA 94903

Stephen Farneth
M. Bridget Maley
Architectural Resources Group
Pier 9
The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111

Art Deco Society of California
100 Bush Street, Suite 511
SF, CA 94104

William F. Bailey
1009 Las Palmas Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95051-5308

Bay Area Discovery Museum

East Fort Baker
557 McReynolds Road
Sausalito, CA 94965

Bay Area Museum Connection San Francisco State University

1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

Martin Friedman, Executive Director

Bay Area Trails Preservation Council

P.O. Box 153
Corte Madera, CA 94976

Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society

PO Box 134
Belvedere-Tiburon, CA 94920

The Bolinas Museum

48 Wharf Road
Bolinas, CA 94924

Cable Car Museum

1201 Mason St.
San Francisco, CA 94108

California Academy of Sciences

California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park
San Francisco CA 94118

California Council for the Humanities

312 Sutter Street #601
San Francisco, CA 94108

Gary Widman

California Heritage Council

P.O. Box 475046
San Francisco, CA 94147

California Historical Society

Stephen Becker, Executive Director
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

California Preservation Foundation

5 Third St., Ste 424
San Francisco, CA 94103

Alison Moore, Archivist
CSAA Archives & Historical Services
150 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA. 94102

China Camp State Park
Route 1, Box 244
San Rafael, CA 94901
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
750 Kearny Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108

The Chinese Historical Society of America
965 Clay Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

City of Sausalito Historic Landmarks Board
City Hall
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, CA 94965

de Young Museum
50 Hagiwara
San Francisco, CA 94118

Fairfax Historical Society
P.O. Box 662
Fairfax, CA 94978-0622

Falkirk Cultural Center
1408 Mission Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Pansy Tom, Executive Assistant
Fisherman's Wharf Merchants Association
#2 Al Scoma Way at Pier 47
San Francisco, CA 94133

David H. Grubb, Chairman of the Board
Fort Point & Presidio Historical Association
P.O. Box 29163, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender
Historical Society**
657 Mission St., Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Global Virtual Museum
P.O. Box 93
Ross, CA 94957

Carol Prince, Deputy Director, External Affairs
Golden Gate National Park Association
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Charlene Harvey, Chair
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94102

Holocaust Center of Northern California (HCNC)
121 Steuart Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

International Museum of Women
P.O. Box 190038
San Francisco, CA 94119-0038

Jewish Museum San Francisco
736 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Labor Archives and Research Center San Francisco State University
480 Winston Drive
San Francisco, CA 94132

Lesbian & Gay Historical Society of Northern California
P.O. Box 470310
San Francisco, CA 94147-0310

Marin Conservation League
1623A Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Jim Farley, Director
Marin County Department of Cultural Services
10 Avenue of the Flags
San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin County Historical Society
1125 D Street
San Rafael CA 94901

Marin Heritage
P.O. Box 1432
San Rafael CA 94915

Marin History Museum
1125 B Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

Marin Museum of the American Indian

2200 Novato Boulevard
Novato CA 94948

Mill Valley Historical Society

375 Throckmorton Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts

2868 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

Mission Dolores

3321 Sixteenth Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Susan Morris, Curator and Historian

55 Rowley Circle
Tiburon, CA 94920

Mount Tamalpais State Park Visitor Center

801 Panoramic Hwy
Mill Valley CA 94941

Museum of Russian Culture

2450 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Nicasio Historical Society

P.O. Box 111
Nicasio, CA 94946
Alan Schmierer

Regional Environmental Coordinator

National Park Service, Pacific West Region Office

1111 Jackson St., Ste. 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Ron Usndergill, Regional Director

National Parks Conservation Association

150 Post St., Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94108

Anthea M. Hartig, Ph.D., Director
Western Office, The Hearst Building

National Trust for Historic Preservation

5 Third Street, Suite 707
San Francisco, CA 94103

Northern California Chapter Society of Architectural Historians

c/o Lissa McKee, NCCSAH Treasurer
307 Starling Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Novato Historical Guild

75 Rowland Way, suite 200
Novato, CA 94945

Novato History Museum and Archives

75 Rowland Way, suite 200
Novato CA 94945

Old Timers Museum

11 Knolltop Ct.
Novato CA 94945

Olompali State Historic Park

P.O. Box 1016
Novato, CA 94948

Amy Meyer, Co-Chair
Edgar Wayburn, Co-Chair

People for a GGNRA

3627 Clement Street
San Francisco, CA 94121

Presidio of San Francisco Museum

William Penn Mott Jr. Visitor Center
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Richardson's Bay Maritime Association

P. O. Box 1108
Sausalito, CA 94966

Judy Coy, Chair

San Anselmo Historical Commission

110 Tunstead Avenue
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Charles R. Olson, Board President

San Francisco Architectural Heritage

2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Steven McAdam, Deputy Director
Kerri Davis, Coastal Program Analyst
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA 94111

DeeDee Workman, Executive Director
San Francisco Beautiful
564 Market Street, Ste. 709
San Francisco CA 94104-5415

San Francisco Fire Department Museum
655 Presidio Avenue and Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

San Francisco History Association
PO Box 31907
San Francisco, CA 94131

San Francisco Maritime National Park Association
PO Box 470310
San Francisco, CA 94147-0310

Charles Chase, Executive Director
San Francisco Museum and Historical Society
2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94142

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
151 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

San Francisco's Gold Rush Trail/Foundation
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Sausalito Historical Society
420 Lithos Street
Sausalito, CA 94965

Shaping San Francisco
1095 Market Street, Suite 210
San Francisco, CA 94103

Society of California Pioneers
300 - 4th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

Sutro Library
480 Winston Drive
San Francisco, CA 94132

The Legion of Honor

100 34th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

The Exploratorium

3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

The Mexican Museum

San Francisco Fort Mason Center, Building D
San Francisco, CA 94123

The Victorian Alliance

824 Grove St
San Francisco, CA 94117

Treganza Anthropology Museum

600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

**U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of California Historical Society**

P.O. Box 36112
San Francisco, CA 94102

Wells Fargo Bank Historical Services

420 Montgomery Street (A0101-026)
San Francisco, CA 94163