



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

SAS CABLE INSTALLATION ENTERS COMPACTION STAGE

Compaction of Self-Anchored Suspension Span Cable Scheduled to be Completed Next Week

Oakland, May 2, 2012 – Construction of the Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) – the signature element of the new East Span of the Bay Bridge – continues to progress as crews are scheduled to complete the compaction of the SAS's single main cable by Monday, May 7. Workers are using four hydraulic compaction devices to compress the 137 individual strands for the nearly 1-mile-long cable; the process began April 14.

Compaction begins at the top of the 525-foot-tall single tower. Workers move the compactor down toward the road decks, with the assistance of winches, 1.5 meters at a time. The compactor places temporary galvanized carbon steel seizing bands around the main cable at 1.5 meter intervals. The strands are also compacted between the jacking and deviation saddles as they pass around the western end of the span. The cable is not compacted at the top of the tower as the individual strands pass through a cable saddle. Crews use a different compactor as the cable approaches the road decks at the east end of the span.

After compaction, workers will begin attaching the 114 cable bands, which permanently hold the cable strands and also serve as anchor points for the suspender cables on the main cable; the temporary bands are removed as the permanent cable bands are attached.

On April 5, 2012, crews began pulling the last strand using a state-of-the-art hauling system to pull the coiled strand from the east end of the span over the tower and down to the west end where it loops around before heading back in the same path to anchor into the east end. Once the 137 strands were connected to the anchor rods that lock them into place, crews began the cable compaction process in which the compactor device squeezed the strands together to form the 2.6-foot-diameter cable.

The cable weighs approximately 5,291 tons. Each strand contains 127 high-tensile strength steel wires, for a total of 17,399 wires. The cable is the longest single looped suspension bridge cable in the world.

When completed, the cable will act like a giant sling, supporting the weight of the deck. Unlike traditional suspension bridges where the cables are anchored into the ground, a self-anchored suspension bridge's cable is anchored in the road decks.

For more information visit BayBridgeInfo.org/projects/sas-main-cable.

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