



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Public Information Office: (510) 286-7167

PRESS RELEASE

WORLD'S LARGEST CABLE SADDLE PLACED ATOP LONGEST SELF-ANCHORED SUSPENSION SPAN

Steel Saddle Will Carry Bridge's Nearly 1-Mile Long Cable Over the Tower

Oakland, May 19, 2011 – The Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) celebrates another milestone today as workers place the world's largest cable saddle atop the tower of what will be the world's longest SAS, at 2,047 feet. The tower for the SAS, the signature element of San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's new span, will stand tall at 525 feet.

The cable saddle weighs approximately 450 tons, and while it has a rectangular flat base, two sides jut out. The top is curved to better carry the cable over the top not just once but twice, making it one of the few double cable saddles in bridge construction and the largest and heaviest for a suspension bridge. The base is 23.8 feet long and 19.7 feet wide. The saddle's length stretches to 32.8 feet close to the top. At the saddle's curved apex, it is 13.7 feet tall.

Strand jacks will hoist the cable saddle more than 500 feet into the air to place it onto a single steel component that was placed atop the four tower legs on April 15. This section will evenly distribute the weight of the cable saddle, and eventually the cable, amongst the four tower legs.

The steel saddle will carry the SAS's nearly 1-mile long single cable. 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. The cable will anchor into the east end of the roadway, travel up and over the tower to wrap around the west end before traveling back up and over the tower to anchor back into the east end; in other words, the 2.6-foot-wide cable will act like a giant, unbelievably strong sling.

The tower will be complete this summer when the tower head is placed.

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

###

Discover more info, photos and videos about the SAS Tower by scanning the QR tag. QR codes can be scanned using a smartphone or other personal media device using QR reader apps that are available online.

