



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

HISTORIC LIFT OF FIRST SELF-ANCHORED SUSPENSION SPAN SECTION FOR NEW BAY BRIDGE

More than 1,000 Tons of Steel Marks the Beginning of Permanent Construction

Oakland, Feb. 3, 2010... The first permanent deck section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) is being hoisted onto the bridge's temporary support steel today. This historic lift marks the moment when the action on the permanent sections begins to shift from fabrication to construction of the iconic span. When construction is completed, the SAS will be the largest of its kind, at 2,047-feet-long and will have a single 525-foot-tall tower.

This first section weighs 1,020 tons and is nearly 84 feet long; all of the deck sections are about 90 feet wide. The section will be lifted by the 400- by 100-foot shear leg crane barge, the largest on the West Coast. The crane can lift up to 1,873 tons, and will place this first section onto a cradle on the eastbound side of the temporary supports. The cradle will then gently carry the section into place at the westernmost end of the supports on the edge of Yerba Buena Island. The next three sections will also be lifted onto the eastbound side.

"With this lift, we're beginning to close the final gap toward seismic safety on the Bay Bridge," said Andrew Fremier, deputy executive director of the Bay Area Toll Authority. "The public has waited patiently for this milestone, and the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee is excited to start this stage of the construction."

The various sections have different weights – from 559 tons to 1,669 tons – as well as different lengths, from 60-feet-long up to 229-feet-long. The first eight of the 28 immense deck sections for the SAS arrived on January 21.

Deck and tower sections will arrive throughout the year, and the new East Span is expected to be open to both westbound and eastbound traffic in 2013.

###