



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

SAS TOWER CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FINAL PHASE

Latest Section Will Bring SAS Tower to 495 Feet of Its 525 Foot Height

Oakland, April 15, 2011 – The Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) tower will grow 15 feet taller as the latest steel segment is placed today, bringing the tower to 495 feet, about 94 percent of its final 525 foot height.

Unlike the previous four tower lifts, which were comprised of four individual sections, this latest lift is a single segment that will sit atop all four independent legs. The section –known as the “grillage” – will evenly distribute the weight of the 480-ton cable saddle that will hold the SAS’s nearly mile-long single cable as it passes over the tower. The section is nicknamed the “grillage” due to the position of internal steel plates which create the appearance of a grill grate.

This latest tower section arrived in the Bay Area on February 14. The grillage weighs approximately 500 tons, and is 30 feet by 30 feet. When completed, the SAS, the signature element of the new East Span, will take its place on the list of iconic Bay Area landmarks.

Two strand jacks will hoist the grillage nearly 500 feet into the air, so that it can be carefully placed onto the four tower legs. While lifting the grillage will not take as long as it did for the tower legs, which had to be lifted from a horizontal position off a barge into a vertical position, placing this section could take longer, as it must fit over all four tower legs.

Crews will take approximately one day to lift and place the grillage onto the tower legs. Once it has been set down, crews will connect the grillage with bolts, welds and splice plates.

The cable saddle is tentatively scheduled to be placed in late May. Workers successfully placed the cable saddle onto the grillage during a test last week to ensure the two pieces would fit.

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

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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.

