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PRESS RELEASE

BAY BRIDGE CELEBRATES SAS MILESTONE

Final Self-Anchored Suspension Span Deck Section Hoisted Into Place

Oakland, October 28, 2011 – The 28th and final deck section for the Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) is being placed today, marking a major milestone in the construction of the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

This historic lift began at 6 a.m. as crews began hoisting the 1,049-ton deck segment, which makes the final connection between the SAS and the Skyway, the two largest projects of the new East Span, as well as the cities of San Francisco and Oakland. With the SAS and Skyway connected, the public will now have a clearer view of what the final bridge will look like when it opens to traffic in late 2013.

Twenty-one months ago crews placed the very first deck section at the opposite end of the SAS, near Yerba Buena Island, on February 3, 2010. Since then, crews have worked day and night, in good weather and bad, to build the east- and westbound decks of the signature element of the new East Span. Now with all of the segments for the decks and tower in place, the vision for the SAS has become reality.

Crews took approximately seven hours to lift and place the deck section. Once it was secure atop the temporary steel truss that supports the span, crews prepared to start bolting and welding the segment to the adjacent deck section and crossbeam. When construction is completed, the SAS will be the longest bridge of its kind, built with a single 525-foot-tall tower and a single main cable.

The various deck sections have different weights – from 559 tons to 1,669 tons – as well as different lengths, from 60-foot-long up to 229-foot-long.

Unlike traditional suspension bridges, the main cable of the SAS anchors into the roadway itself. The span's single, nearly 1-mile-long cable is anchored into the east end of the roadway, traveling up and over the single tower to wrap around the west end before traveling back over the tower to anchor back into the east end. This final deck segment is one of four pieces that serves as anchor points for the cable.

The main cable installation is tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2012.

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

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