



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **LIGHTS ILLUMINATE BAY BRIDGE PROGRESS**

### **Construction Lights on SAS Catwalks Reveal Nighttime Appearance of SAS**

**Oakland, August 29, 2011** – Construction lights strung along the bright orange catwalks for the Self-Anchored Suspension Span's (SAS) main cable will be switched on at dusk today, revealing how the bridge will appear on future Bay Area evenings. The florescent lights, to be used during construction on the SAS and its main cable at night and in heavy fog, provide a sneak peak of how the SAS will be illuminated by its permanent lights when the bridge opens in late 2013. The lights were previously used during construction of the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge (a.k.a. the new Carquinez Bridge).

The lights signify the suspension span – the signature element of the new East Span – moving into a new phase of construction. Crews erected the four orange catwalks this summer in preparation for the placement of the main cable, which will begin in early 2012. The 12-foot-wide wire mesh catwalks are positioned four feet below the location of the main cable, giving the Bay Area a preview of the bridge's final graceful profile.

The catwalks on the east side of the tower are 1,060 feet long and start at a five degree angle near the deck and gradually reach a 28 degree angle closer to the tower. The catwalks on the west side are 600 feet long, and start at a much steeper angle of 24 degrees, reaching 35 degrees at the top of the tower.

The four last deck sections for the SAS arrived on Sunday, Aug. 28. Workers will place these final four segments at the eastern end of the SAS later this year. The main cable anchors into the eastern end of the SAS at these sections. 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.

###