

California Department of Transportation

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September 23, 2024

Chief Donald J. A. Goodbrand
California Highway Patrol
Golden gate Division
1551 Benicia Road
Vallejo, CA 94591

Dear Chief Goodbrand,

Thank you for our meeting this afternoon, including the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), and Illuminate the Arts (Illuminate) regarding the "The Bay Lights 360" project. In the meeting, we discussed the project details, including the decorative lights visibility to motorists travelling on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Span, and the potential for increased traffic safety risks and becoming an attractive nuisance.

Caltrans and BATA appreciate the California Highway Patrol's willingness to reconsider its position against moving forward with Illuminate's request for Caltrans approval to install (only) the interior Bay Lights and to defer their activation, pending a comprehensive evaluation of potential safety and operational impacts. As discussed, Illuminate has previously acknowledged their risk with the commissioning of the said lights potentially being disallowed as well as the associated sunk costs. The proposed Bay Lights shall be placed on two separate circuits, one for the exterior lights visible from the Bay side and another for interior lights visible from the roadway. The interior lights proposed to be visible from the roadway shall not be activated for public display until completion of a comprehensive test fully evaluating their traffic safety and operational impacts. In addition, if and when the interior lights are approved with unanimous agreement that motorists' safety is not impacted, Caltrans (and CHP, by inference) will have full control of the lights at all times.

Thank you again for your valuable insight and continued partnership for safety and efficient operations on Bay Area State highways. If you wish further information, please contact me at 510-286-6345 or via email sean.nozzari@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Sean Nozzari'.

S. SEAN NOZZARI, PE
Deputy District Director, Operations

c: Lieutenant Daniel Hill, CHP
Mr. Andrew Fremier, BATA, Executive Director
Ms. Dina El-Tawansy, District 4 Director