

Memorandum

To: ELBERT COX
PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Date: October 18, 2024

File: Transportation Art
SFOBB Bay Lights 360

From: JEANNE GORHAM
District Landscape Architect
District 4

Subject: SFOBB BAY LIGHTS 360 EXCEPTION REVIEW

Headquarters Landscape Architecture Program has reviewed the 2012 and 2015 exceptions for intermittent LED light installation on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SFOBB) and determined these exceptions are sufficient for the proposed Bay Lights 360 kinetic lighting display oriented toward viewers along the San Francisco Waterfront and not visible to motorists on the Bay Bridge.

Proposed lighting visible to motorists on the SFOBB will require review and approval from Caltrans, FHWA, and CHP.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED



JEANNE GORHAM
District Landscape Architect
District 4

10/18/2024

Date

APPROVED



ELBERT COX
Principal Landscape Architect
Caltrans

Date

Attachments

Exception Approval April 30, 2015
Exception Approval June 13, 2012

Memorandum

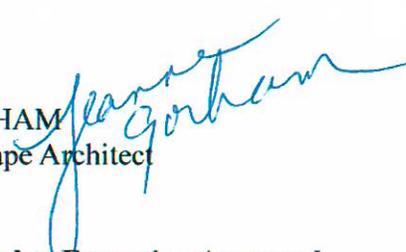
*Serious drought.
Help Save Water!*

To: KEITH ROBINSON
Principal Landscape Architect

Date: April 30, 2015

File: Art Program
SFOBB Bay Lights

From: JEANNE GORHAM
District Landscape Architect
District 4



Subject: SFOBB Bay Lights Exception Approval

This memo is to document the approval of the reinstallation of the Bay Lights Art on the western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The Bay Lights is a fine arts installation that features 25,000 energy-efficient LED lights on the vertical suspender cables along the northern-facing side of the West Span of the bridge. The project was installed under the Art Program in 2012 and has recently been removed for regularly scheduled cable maintenance. The City of San Francisco and other partners have asked to reinstall the popular feature. The first installation received an exception to the art program guidelines that prohibit intermittent lighting, kinetic features and attachment to steel structures. The intermittent LED lighting will be placed on the outside-facing portion of the suspender cables on the upper deck. The kinetic lighting display will be oriented toward viewers along the San Francisco waterfront and will not be visible to motorists on the Bay Bridge. District Executive members, toll bridge engineering, traffic safety and maintenance divisions, as well as Structures Maintenance and Inspection Office (SM&I) have reviewed the proposal. All parties have provided their support and concurrence for this art project.

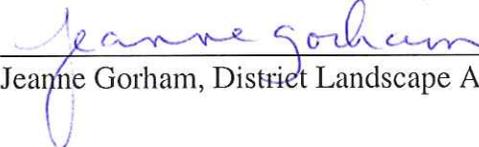


Keith Robinson
Principal Landscape Architect

5.1.15
date

Attachment(s)
Cal STA Issue Memo
San Francisco City Engineer
MOU Bata Caltrans
DTAC/District 4 Concurrence Correspondence

Fact Sheet Exception to Transportation Art Policy

Submitted by  6-1-12
Jeanne Gorham, District Landscape Architect Date

Recommended
For Approval  6/11/12
Lori Butler, Statewide Coordinator Date
Landscape Architecture Program

Approved by  6.13.12
Keith Robinson, Principal Date
Landscape Architecture Program

1. PROPOSED PROJECT

The Bay Lights is a fine arts installation that features 25,000 energy-efficient led lights on the vertical suspender cables of the northern-facing side of the Bay Bridge's West Span. The West Span crosses the western half of San Francisco Bay connecting San Francisco to Yerba Buena Island. The West Span is approximately 1.95-miles in length and is composed of two complete suspension spans connected at a central anchorage. The LED lights will be installed along the 308 north facing bridge suspender cables, which range from 5 feet in height to 240 feet in height (average height of all cables is 40 feet), and extend 1-½ -miles in width, where each cable is approximately 30 feet apart. All LED lights would face outward at a 45 degree angle and will be hidden from the view of motorists on the Bay Bridge. The lights will be viewable from San Francisco's northeast side (The Embarcadero). The artwork will be illuminated from dusk to 2 a.m., with a projected duration of 24 months before it will be removed.

The Bay Lights illuminates the Bay Bridge's metaphorical values within the San Francisco Bay Area. It brings to light the power of community connections and mobility. The energy-efficient installation creates an elegant "arts bridge" that binds us through our shared history (75th Anniversary), our present (America's Cup) and our future (Opening of the new East Span with its 150-year planned life). The white lighting scheme celebrates the "Diamond Anniversary" of the SFO Bay Bridge by redefining our relationship and appreciation for the existing structure while introducing to the soon-to-arrive visual language of the new East Span.

The cost , including materials, design, installation, maintenance and removal, including required traffic control and public outreach, is estimated from \$7 to \$8 million.

2. REASON FOR REQUESTING AN EXCEPTION

This Bay Lights project proposal includes intermittent LED lighting. The Transportation Art Program guidelines in Chapter 29 of the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM), prohibit the use of intermittent lighting on artworks placed in the state right of way. The intermittent LED lighting proposed for the Bay Lights project will be placed on the outside-facing portion of the suspender cables on the upper deck level. The lighting display will be oriented toward viewers along the San Francisco Embarcadero waterfront and will not be visible to motorists on the Bay Bridge. The lights would be at an intensity that should not cause a visual distraction. If the proposed lighting poses a safety issue or visual distraction to motorists on the SFO Bay Bridge or along the San Francisco waterfront, the proposed LED lighting will be adjusted to mitigate the impact.

The proposal has been reviewed by the District Traffic Division and have no objections to the art project in it's current design configuration.

3. PROJECT REVIEWS, CONCURRENCE

The Bay Lights has conducted extensive public outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods and local communities that will be impacted by the Bay Lights project.

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The Bay Lights
Exception to Transportation Art Policy

(see attachment 3). As a result, a Resolution was passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors demonstrating their support on April 24, 2012-. The San Francisco Arts Commission has provided an additional Resolution and support.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and other cultural alliances around the San Francisco Bay Area have provided letters of their support (see attachment). In addition, outreach to the waterway users was facilitated by the US Coast Guard to ensure the proposed light sculpture would not impact navigation of the San Francisco Bay. To safeguard navigation, ongoing outreach to the Coast Guard and waterway users, including the San Francisco Bar Pilots and San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee, will continue as an important part of our efforts to receive feedback on any visual or navigational impact. The needs of the Coast Guard and waterway users will be met by adjusting the artistic lighting installation and adjusting the prescribed lighting of the bridge as needed.

The Bay Lights proposal has been extensively reviewed by District Executive members, toll bridge engineering, traffic and maintenance personnel, as well as Office of Structures Maintenance (OSMI). All have provided their support and concurrence for this art project.

SF Baylights 360 Exception Memo

Final Audit Report

2024-10-19

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