

PR1 - Michael Payne

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - District 4 Toll Bridge Program**

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James Lecky, Director of Office of Protection Resources    March 3, 2008  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821  
Silver Spring, Md  
Attn: Mr. Kenneth Hollingshead

Contract No. 04-0120F4  
04-SF-80-13.2 / 13.9

SAS T1 & E2 Foundation

Letter No. 05.19.01-livey-000001

Subject: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries Incidental Harassment Authorization for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Seismic Safety Project; Renewal Request.

Dear Mr. Lecky,

The purpose of this letter is to request a renewal of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) issued to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on November 4, 2003. The IHA is valid from May 2, 2007 through May 1, 2008. The IHA, issued under the authority of Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1316 et. seq.), provides for the taking, by level B harassment, of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to the construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SFOBB) East Span Seismic Safety Project over the San Francisco Bay in California.

This request for the renewal of the IHA is based on documents previously submitted to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries in support of, or in compliance with, the existing IHA for the above named project. These documents include the following:

- The original application for the IHA submitted by Caltrans in September 2001;
- The IHA issued on November 4, 2003;
- The Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan for the SFOBB East Span Seismic Safety Project approved in May 2002;
- Two Federal Register Notices, one dated November 26, 2001 and one dated November 14, 2003;
- A letter from Caltrans requesting revision to the IHA, dated December 16, 2003;
- A letter issued by NOAA-Fisheries on June 28, 2004 in response to the December 16, 2003 Caltrans request;
- Marine mammal monitoring reports submitted to NOAA-Fisheries between November 2003 and the present;
- The marine mammal monitoring report, Marine Mammal and Acoustic Monitoring for the Eastbound Structure, dated June 2004;
- The marine mammal monitoring report, Marine Mammal and Acoustic Monitoring for the Westbound Structure, dated January 2005;
- Hydroacoustic Measurements at Piers T1 and E2 Report, dated August 2006; and

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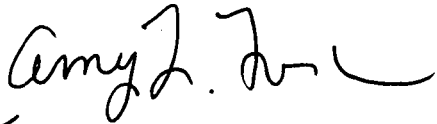
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- The marine mammal monitoring report, Marine Mammal and Acoustic Monitoring for the Marine Foundations Piers T1 and E2, dated December 2006.

Caltrans has scheduled pile-driving for 2008-2009, and is therefore requesting renewal of the IHA. The Self-Anchored Suspension Span Project is scheduled to begin pile-driving in April 2008, with the estimated completion date being mid 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Fowler, SFOBB Environmental Compliance Manager, at 510-286-0514.

Sincerely,



 JEFFREY G. JENSEN

Office Chief

Office of Biological Sciences and Permits

cc: Rod McInnis, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service/Southwest Region  
file: 05.19.01