

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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July 27, 2010

James Lecky
Director of Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Lecky,

This is a clarification to the July 8, 2010 letter requesting renewal of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Seismic Safety Project (SFOBB Project).

The California Department of Transportation (Department) has not scheduled any in-water pile driving for the 2010-2011 permit year. However, due to the possibility of unforeseen construction changes, the Department believes it is important to maintain a current IHA during SFOBB Project construction operations.

Should construction schedule changes necessitate the installation or removal of in-water piles, these would be small diameter temporary piles, ranging from 0.5 meter (18 inches) to 1.2 meters (48 inches) in diameter. Piles could be installed using impact or vibratory hammers without the deployment of an air bubble curtain system. Removal of piles could also be performed with a vibratory hammer without the deployment of an air bubble curtain system.

Should in-water pile driving occur, work would be similar in nature to the pile installation that was performed as part of the construction of the Self-Anchored Suspension (SAS) Temporary Towers, during 2008 and 2009. Any further potential in-water vibratory or impact pile driving would involve piles equal to or smaller in size than the piles that were installed as part of the SAS Temporary Tower construction. Therefore, the Department expects that underwater sound energy levels and potential impacts to marine mammals will be the same or less than previous construction activities.

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Should you have any questions or need further clarification please do not hesitate to contact Stefan Galvez, SFOBB Environmental Compliance Manager at (510) 867-6785 or his staff, Courtney Cacace at (650) 520-3254.

Sincerely,

TONY ANZIANO
Program Manager
Toll Bridge Program

By



STEFAN GALVEZ-ABADIA
SFOBB Environmental Compliance Manager

c: Rod McInnis, Regional Administrator, NOAA-Fisheries Southwest Region
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