

## **2.2.4 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES**

The constraints associated with the development of project alternatives in accordance with the purpose and need for the project, limited the opportunity to design alternatives that could completely avoid affecting the appearance of the Bridge. Construction of a physical suicide deterrent barrier is an action that would physically alter the visual appearance of the Bridge. The range of alternatives was developed to minimize the visual changes to the Bridge to the maximum extent possible, while providing feasible concepts that responded to the established criteria. All of the build alternatives would be constructed of steel that would be painted International Orange to match the material and color of the Bridge.

There would be no visual impacts associated with the No Build Alternative.

Measures incorporated into the design of Alternatives 1A and 2A are the use of 1/2 inch vertical rods which remain consistent with the strong vertical line form created by the Bridge towers, suspender ropes, and light posts. Measures incorporated into the design of Alternatives 1B and 2B are the use of 3/8-inch horizontal cables, which are consistent with the design of the public safety railing and the horizontal line form established by horizon of the blue-green waters of the San Francisco Bay. These alternatives also include transparent panels at the belvederes and around the Bridge towers so as to continue to provide unobstructed viewing opportunities from the sidewalks.

Alternative 3, the horizontal net system, represents the strongest contrast with the strong verticality of the Bridge but provides unobstructed views across the San Francisco Bay from the Bridge sidewalks. The net would disrupt a small portion of the views towards the San Francisco Bay looking down from the Bridge sidewalks.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to be developed as part of the Section 106 consultation process will include photographic recordation of the existing features and views of and from the Bridge in order to partially mitigate visual impacts (see Section 2.3 Cultural Resources).

## **2.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **2.3.1 REGULATORY SETTING**

“Cultural resources” as used in this document refers to all historical and archaeological resources, regardless of significance. Laws and regulations dealing with cultural resources include: