

Appendix H

Comments on Draft EIR/EA

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LETTERS AND EMAILS

Agency Comments



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

*Sent by fax
3:00 PM 8-25-2008*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (GOGA-PLAN)

August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Highway Bridge and Transportation District
Box 9000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

2008 AUG 27 PM 1:47
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for providing the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Barrier Project dated July 2008.

As an adjacent land managing agency we work in partnership to ensure the safety of our visitors. The attempted and actual suicide by individuals at the Golden Gate Bridge is a serious concern to the park. We encourage you in your efforts to effectively deter suicides in such a way that will suit the diverse needs of visitors and users that experience the bridge each day.

The National Park Service Mission is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. In support of the National Park Service (NPS) Mission, the NPS provides the following comments.

We agree with the Bridge District's finding that the Build Alternatives will have *substantial adverse effects* on 1) the Scenic Vistas from the bridge and from the surrounding GGNRA lands, 2) on the Historic Property, historic design integrity and physical material of the bridge structure, and 3) on Biological Resources including migratory birds, Mission Blue Butterfly habitat, and Peregrine Falcon nesting.

Visitor experience and scenic vistas: Of the Build Alternatives, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) believes that Alternative 3, the horizontal net, as having the least impact to visitor and user experience, and to the scenic and historic vistas from the bridge.

1a

Cultural Resources: Acknowledging that all of the action alternatives will have an adverse effect on the Golden Gate Bridge due to the addition of a conspicuous new element, GGNRA

1a-1

finds that Alternative 1B of the Build Alternatives is the most sensitive to, and compatible with, the historic character of the Bridge.

1a-1

Natural Resources: For all Build Alternatives, GGNRA supports the need for further research on potential bird impacts and will work with the District and US Fish and Wildlife to ensure protection of the Peregrine Falcon, Mission Blue Butterfly and their respective habitats. We will coordinate with the District to support Best Management Practices to protect the environment.

1b

Considering all factors, cultural, scenic and biological, the GGNRA supports Alternative 3, the Net System. The Golden Gate Bridge is recognized as a significant international icon. Visitors come to view and experience the thrilling environs and views of the San Francisco Bay and to marvel at the engineering beauty of the bridge itself.

1c

On balance, and looking at all components, what stands out is the key importance of the unobstructed views, the soaring heights of the towers, the exhilaration for visitors leaning on the railing, feeling the wind, experiencing open vistas of water, the City, Alcatraz, and the Marin Headlands.

Alternative 3, the Net System, contributes less impact to these key aspects of the bridge than do the vertical railing extensions. With the net, the view is maintained unobstructed, and the original experience is kept unspoiled by avoiding looking out through bars or glass windows. The look, view and design of the Golden Gate Bridge would continue uninterrupted as it has been since the conception and construction over 70 years ago.

Please keep us informed about measures that might be included to reduce the substantial impacts consistent with a finding of no significant impact. Additional detailed comments are included as an attachment below.

Thank you for inviting our agency to comment and for continuing to provide information on the project to the NPS at the Golden Gate Recreation Area. For review and coordination issues, please contact Andrea Lucas, Landscape Architect, GGNRA at andrea_lucas@nps.gov or 415/561-2878.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Neill
General Superintendent

[attachment]

ATTACHMENT:

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
SPECIFIC COMMENTS from Golden Gate National Recreation Area
August 25, 2008

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. NPS concerns about the potential suicide deterrent system include potential physical impacts to the historic bridge, and the visual and experiential impacts to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on the bridge, | 1d |
| 2. The NPS is concerned about potential construction impacts that should be addressed include physical danger, such as from falling objects at Fort Point; continuous visitor access; visitor experience relative to noise, construction barriers, particulate matter; and issues concerning the control and effects of lead paint removal. Staging areas and construction access, parking and materials storage and movement need to be coordinated with the NPS. | 1e |
| 3. The alternatives that best achieve compatibility and meet historic preservation objectives are Alternatives 1A and 1B which preserve the historic railing while adding to it compatibly. | 1e-1 |
| 4. Alternative 1B is preferred over 1A as it is consistent in design with the safety railing added to the bridge between the promenade and roadway in the recent past and achieves a better balance between compatibility and distinction from the original bridge design. It is less visually intrusive, and maintains panoramic views in its open spaces while the vertical alternative breaks up all views. | 1e-2 |
| 5. For historic preservation we do not recommend employment of Alternatives 2A and 2B, as they remove the original railing, destroy historic fabric and completely change the promenade's design and appearance. | 1e-3 |
| 6. For historic character we do not recommend Alternative 3, Netting, as it introduces a new design element to the bridge. | 1f |
| 7. The District should construct a mock-up of the chosen alternative to be painted both in international orange and in a receding color to be able to judge mitigation of visual impacts. Consider leaving the constructed deterrent in unpainted stainless steel. | 1g |
| 8. The DEIR states that the Golden Gate Bridge is a contributing feature of the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark (NHL). While certain features of the Bridge, such as Doyle Drive, contribute to the Presidio NHL, the span of the Bridge itself is not a contributing feature of the Presidio NHL. | 1h |

- 9. Figure 2.1-1 Correct the GGNRA boundary to include all of Presidio Area A (Crissy Field area is not shown as GGNRA on current version; Lobos Creek is not shown as GGNRA on current version). City property along the Marina is shown as GGNRA. Show the true boundary of GGNRA including waters under state lands lease. 1 i
- 10. Figure 2.1-2 Correct GGNRA offshore boundary. Show Fort Baker as part of GGNRA. 1 j
- 11. Show Construction Staging Areas (item 4) in a separate color and symbol. 1 k
- 12. Table 2.1-1 Add certain land uses which are missing for various properties: Golden Gate Bridge = Public Road; Marine Drive = Historic Resource; Fort Point and Battery Spencer = Recreational Resources; Much of the GGNRA lands and San Francisco Bay surrounding the project are also Natural Resources, open space, and habitat. 1 l
- 13. Table 2.1-2 Update information on this table. 1 m
- 14. p. 2-6 The description of the development at Fort Baker needs to be edited. 1 n
- 15. p. 2-6 Update the Doyle Drive project status. 1 o
- 16. p. 2-10 Project Consistency. 2nd paragraph states that the project would not affect the natural environment. Add wind impacts and potential bird impacts to this section. 1 p
- 17. Table 2.1-3 Show Fort Baker as part of GGNRA 1 q
- 18. p. 2-13 Fort Baker is open now. 1 r
- 19. p. 2-13 and 2-14 Clarify that the Merchant Road staging area is also within GGNRA. Confirm that alternative public parking will be available during project construction. Coordination with GGNRA remediation and trail construction would occur. 1 s
- 20. Table 2.2-1 The Presidio landscape unit also includes expanses of coastal scrub (much of the bluff area previously covered with cypress is being converted to scrub, and views have been substantially opened). The Marin Headlands landscape includes historic military elements. 1 t
- 21. The transparent panels; Alternatives 1 and 2 should incorporate an alternative treatment that is entirely cables or bars, including at the belvederes to modify potential impacts caused by the transparent panels.
- 22. p. 2-130 Affected Environment. See comment above regarding the staging area on Merchant Road (in GGNRA, Presidio Area A). 1 u
- 23. p. 2-138 Energy – The increased energy and resource use required for frequent cleaning of the transparent panels (e.g., the increased demand for fresh water or cleaning products) should be described and included in this analysis.

24. 2.6.8 Measure 1: Clarify that the Biological ECM would work in consultation with GGNRA Natural Resources Staff. Any chemical weed control must be approved by the GGNRA IPM Specialist.	1v
25. 2.6.8. Measure 2: Erosion and dust control plan will be reviewed and approved by GGNRA Natural Resources.	1w
26. p. 3-15 Potential Impacts to Climate Change. The final sentence states that "...the project...would contribute to cumulative increases in the sources of greenhouse gases." It appears that this was intended to state "...would <i>not</i> contribute..."	1x
27. p. 3-15 Potential Impacts to Climate Change. It would be appropriate to evaluate the difference in maintenance among alternatives that could affect the amount of greenhouse gases contributed over the life of the project.	1y
28. 3.3.3 and Appendix F (NES report) See comments on 2.6.8.	1z



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Planning Department of the City and County of San Francisco, I am pleased to submit comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project.

The comments in this letter were informed by the input of an Advisory Panel assembled by the Planning Department at the request of Mayor Newsom. The Mayor has expressed strong interest in this project and requested that the department carefully analyze the alternatives and provide comments to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District.

The Advisory Panel was made of five members with expertise in architecture, engineering, preservation and the arts. Members were:

Boris Dramov, Architect, ROMA; John Eddy, Principal and bridge engineer, ARUP; John Kriken, Architect, SOM; Amy Trachtenberg, Artist; and Andrew Wolfram, Preservation Architect, SMWM. City staff included Kyri McClellan from the Mayors Office of Economic and Workforce Development; Mark Luellen, Preservation Program Manager for the Planning Department; Craig Nikitas, Urban Designer for the Planning Department; and John Rahaim, Planning Director.

On August 13, we heard a detailed presentation by Denis Mulligan, Golden Gate Bridge District Engineer, and John Eberle, Supervising Civil Engineer. The presentation

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covered the five alternatives currently under consideration in the EIR, the results of the wind analysis, and information about current suicide prevention methods on the bridge. We complimented Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Eberle on the thorough, detailed analysis and expertise that they have developed on this topic. We were also impressed by the efforts currently underway on the Bridge to deter suicides through training of staff and direct intervention.

The Panel and staff again convened on August 23, with Mr. Mulligan in attendance, to finalize our comments found in this letter.

We agreed that the current situation presents a continuing tragedy for the region that should be addressed. We also agreed that the bridge is a world class icon and one of the most important examples of 20th century design in the world. Given the iconic nature of the bridge, the most important principle of the project should be to minimize the visual impact of any alterations. Further, we believe that this principle should apply both to views from the bridge, seen as a pedestrian or from a vehicle, and the views of the bridge from surrounding areas.

We believe that the bridge design and location are fundamental to its iconic nature. Specifically, as noted in your report, Historic Property Survey Report, May 2008, the primary character defining elements and decorative features of the bridge and the contributing elements are the major structural elements (the suspension bridge anchorages, pylons, piers, towers, main span and side spans), the plate girder bridge, arch bridge, and truss bridges approaches and the southern approach roadway (Doyle Drive), main suspension cables, Round House, and Toll Plaza Undercrossing. The Art Deco/Moderne design is a character-defining feature of all of these structures and their use within the overall bridge. The railings from the original construction and railings replicated to match original, as well as the layout of the sidewalks – width and construction around piers and pylons -- that allow pedestrian use of the bridge are essential character defining features of the property. Although the sidewalks have been extended and widened, they continue to serve as important, human scale features of the bridge that make it readily accessible to the commuting and visiting public.

Other character defining features that are important in conveying the artistic value of the bridge are the electroliers, or light standards, the International Orange paint color, and remaining concrete railings.

2a-1

Further, the location of the bridge, at one of the most dramatic natural locations in the US contributes to its important status. The Golden Gate is one of the most spectacular “entrances” to any urban location the world.

In total, the design, color and specific location of the bridge form a unified ensemble with the environment, and a melding of the natural and man-made that is found almost nowhere else. The visual aspects of all components of this ensemble are critically important to maintain.

To be most sensitive to the bridge design, we suggest that the District should first consider non-physical alternatives beyond those currently employed. We recognize the current, successful efforts in place that indeed prevent a number of suicides, and we commend the District on these important efforts. Further, we fully recognize that the mission of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District does not necessarily include a social service component.

2a-2

Nonetheless, we suggest that the revenues that would be spent on a physical barrier could be derived from a source other than that which could fund a physical alternative. Such revenues could theoretically be invested to provide a more robust, ongoing prevention program. Given the visibility of the bridge and the current public health issue, this program could attract volunteers to the effort. Specifically, and to be most successful, the patrols should be quite visible and be trained in suicide prevention techniques, much like the current staff is so trained. In sum, the program could result in the bridge being known not only for its design and location, but as an international symbol of the humanity of this region.

While we prefer a non-physical solution, we also recognize that the environment review underway is necessary should the District choose to construct a physical barrier or other physical solution. If such a solution is to proceed, we unanimously recommend Alternative 3, the Horizontal Net System. We believe this alternative would have the least visual impact on both the view of the bridge and the experience of the view from the bridge.

2b

With this alternative, we recommend a detailed study of the color of the net. While the netting structure should match the International Orange color of the bridge, we believe that the net itself may be more appropriately a darker color such as the color of the water, so as to be less visible. If painted International Orange, we believe that the net

2c

would become more visually opaque, and may be seen as an “orange haze” over the water.

2c

In addition, the net and the struts should be placed in different plains to the greatest extent possible. This would avoid the creation of a solid visual platform when seen at a distance, especially from the observation areas on the north and south sides of the bridge.

2d

Further, we recommend that the netting material be as lightweight as possible and immediately usable after an event. We agree with the District staff that a material and design involving minimal maintenance is preferred.

2e

The Panel and staff carefully considered the other four alternatives in our analysis. In all cases with Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B, we believe the additional height of a railing would cause a tunnel-like effect when viewed from the bridge, both as a pedestrian and auto occupant. A railing above normal eye level would eliminate the open, unobstructed views that are a hallmark of the experience of being on the bridge. Further, alternatives 2A and 2B present a more drastic solution with the removal of the original railing. These alternatives would seriously undermine the integrity of the original design.

2e-1

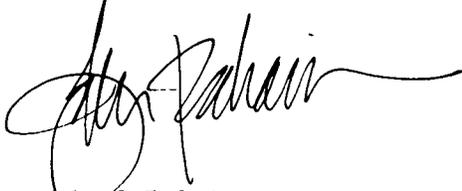
We also recommend that the transparent panels proposed for the belvederes and other locations not be used anywhere on the bridge. We believe that these would become scratched or discolored, and would cause reflections that are distracting from the design of the bridge and the views. In addition, they would likely require continual maintenance on both surfaces, creating additional costs.

In sum, the Advisory Panel and San Francisco Planning Department first recommend a non-physical solution to deter suicides on the Golden Gate Bridge, and secondarily, Alternative 3 with the recommendations noted above.

2f

We strongly commend the District Board and staff for addressing this important public health issue and for your current program to address this regional tragedy. We hope that our comments aid your efforts to develop a successful solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Rahaim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John S. Rahaim

Planning Director

Presented on behalf of the Planning Department of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Department's Advisory Panel on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project

Cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom
Kyri McClellan
Boris Dramov
John Eddy
John Kriken
Amy Trachtenberg
Andrew Wolfram
Denis Mulligan
John Elberle
Crain Nikitas
Mark Luellen

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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File No.: 350.A12865

August 22, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge
Highway and Transportation District
Box 9000
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA, 94129

2008 AUG 22 PM 2:56
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Witt,

The Marin Area Office of the California Highway Patrol has had an opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) concerning the development and evaluation of alternative designs for a physical suicide deterrent system for the Golden Gate Bridge, dated July 2008 (State Clearing House #2007062078).

After reviewing the six alternative proposals considered in the EIR/EA, we have significant concern with Alternative 3, the construction and installation of a horizontal net system. The basis of our concern is the well-being of the persons who may descend into the net, the safety of their rescuers, and the adverse effect on the flow of traffic on the bridge, its sidewalks, and adjacent highways, resulting from any incident involving the net.

The EIR/EA suggests that an individual who falls from the equivalent height of a two-story building and lands into the stainless steel net would survive the 20 foot fall (EIR/EA page 1-33). We believe it is likely that the individual could sustain serious injury requiring immediate medical care. In any event, the individual would require immediate rescue due to their precarious position.

3a

Rescuers performing a recovery would need specialized repelling training and equipment or the use of a truck equipped with an inverted “cherry picker” mechanism and basket, operated by trained and skilled specialists. To ensure the safety of the rescuers and the subject, closure of the sidewalk would be necessary. In the case of the use of a truck equipped with a “cherry picker” mechanism, closure of at least one lane and likely an additional buffer lane would also be necessary. The lane closures would have to take place for the duration of the rescue and continue until the equipment and scene could be cleared. The impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the bridge and the surrounding highways could be catastrophic in terms of the length of the delay.

3b

Worse, the traffic impact would not be simply limited to the closures, but would be exacerbated by the attention drawn to the subject, the rescue attempt, as well as the response time by bridge workers to the incident. Since the California Highway Patrol does not train its personnel in the skills needed nor maintain the sort of vehicles and equipment to accomplish a rescue, other emergency personnel or bridge workers and special vehicles would need to be called to the scene.

3c

The success of the either rescue method supposes, in large measure, that the person to be retrieved from the net wants to be rescued or is at least cooperative. Unfortunately, some persons may resist, assault, or otherwise complicate and delay the efforts of bridge or rescue workers.

3d

We fully support the concept of taking appropriate measures to make the bridge safer for all of its users. And, we are pleased that four alternatives would create a barrier that would serve to inhibit the ability of pedestrians to climb, descend, or trespass upon the structure from the sidewalk. These alternatives would apparently do so without impacting the safe and efficient flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

We strongly believe and are committed to improving public safety. Therefore, we believe that any decision concerning the selection of a physical suicide deterrent system should consider the safety of persons at risk of doing harm to themselves, as well as the safety of bridge employees, public safety personnel, and the vast majority of pedestrians and motorists who use and depend on the bridge for its intended transportation purpose.

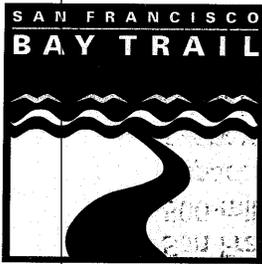
3e

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact us at the address or telephone number above.

Sincerely,



ROBERT J. MOREHEN, Captain
Commander



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 AUG 26 PM 2:17

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

August 22, 2008

Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

Subject: Draft EIR for Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bay Trail Project is a nonprofit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that plans, promotes and advocates for the implementation of a continuous 500-mile bicycling and hiking path around San Francisco Bay. When complete, the trail will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties, and cross seven toll bridges. To date, slightly more than half the length of the Bay Trail alignment has been developed.

The San Francisco Bay Trail crosses the Golden Gate Bridge connecting Marin County to San Francisco and represents one of the most traveled segments of trail in the entire 500-mile regional system. The proposed project would have a substantial adverse impact on the Bay Trail and the ten million cyclists and pedestrians that cross the bridge every year. Our specific comments on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) are listed below.

Bay Trail Plan

While the presence of San Francisco Bay Trail on the Golden Gate Bridge is acknowledged several times in the DEIR, a discussion of the Bay Trail Plan and its policies regarding views and aesthetics are not addressed. It is also important to note that, as a regional trail system connecting all nine Bay Area counties, the Bay Trail has both proposed and currently existing segments at Fort Baker in Marin County. These portions of the Bay Trail are not referenced in the document. Please see the attached map of the Bay Trail in the project vicinity and ensure that a thorough and comprehensive discussion of the Bay Trail Plan, and of segments on both sides of the Bridge is included in the Final EIR.

4a

Impacts of the Proposed Project

All of the alternatives with the exception of the No Build Alternative have negative impacts on the Bay Trail. **Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B have serious,**

4a-1

unmitigateable visual, cultural, and recreational impacts and should not be allowed to move forward. Impacts to views and aesthetics will in no way be mitigated by documenting the existing conditions through photography or other means as part of a Section 106 Consultation as suggested in the DEIR.

4a-1

Of the 5 proposed options, Alternative 3 appears to have the least egregious impacts to views and aesthetics from the Bay Trail on the Golden Gate Bridge. However, this alternative still blocks important downward views of San Francisco Bay from all points along both north and south sidewalks. It is unclear why table 2.2-13 on page 2-100 of the DEIR states that from Viewpoints 12 and 13, visual impacts would be "negligible". From any point along the north or south sidewalk, views looking downward will be impeded by the presence of the net.

4b

Construction Impacts

Page 2-141 of the document states that "There is no continuous system of sidewalks, bike trails or bike lands..." on the roads within the project vicinity that would be impacted by the construction staging areas. There are three regional trail systems within the vicinity of the project: the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the Coastal Trail. For the Final EIR, please review the attached map showing proposed and existing Bay Trail in the project vicinity and describe in detail the impacts that will result from construction equipment that will be operating in the area. The Final EIR should include mitigations for these impacts.

4c

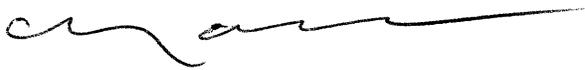
BCDC Jurisdiction

Page 2-8 of the DEIR states that "A portion of the project (construction staging areas) may be located within BCDC's jurisdiction and could, therefore, require a permit from BCDC." It is our understanding that the entirety of the bridge is within BCDC jurisdiction, and that changes of this magnitude would require a permit for the entire project, not solely the construction staging areas.

4d

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the Bay Trail Project or our alignment in San Francisco or Marin Counties, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 464-7909 or via e-mail at maureeng@abag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Maureen Gaffney
Bay Trail Planner

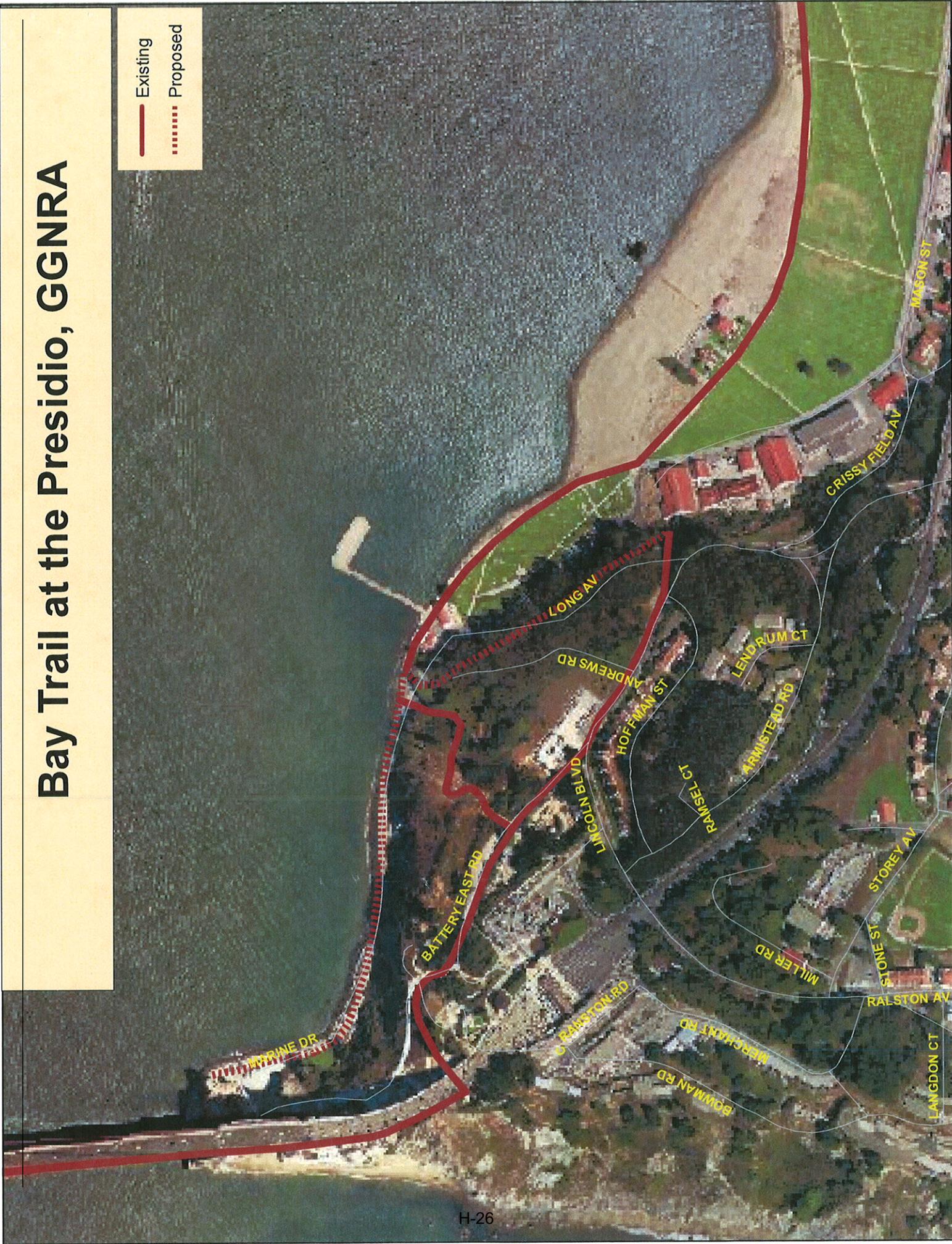
Encl: 1

Bay Trail at Fort Baker, GGNRA



Bay Trail at the Presidio, GGNRA

- Existing
- Proposed



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913-4186 • 415/499-6528 • FAX 415/499-3799

COUNTY OF MARIN

www.co.marin.ca.us/pw

ADMINISTRATION

499-6570

ACCOUNTING

499-7877

AIRPORT

451-A AIRPORT ROAD
NOVATO, CA 94945
897-1754 • FAX 897-1264

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

499-6576 • FAX 499-3250

CAPITAL PROJECTS

499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

DISABILITY ACCESS

499-7002 (VOICE/TTY)
FAX 499-3724

ENGINEERING & SURVEY

499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

COUNTY GARAGE

499-7380 • FAX 499-7190

LAND DEVELOPMENT & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

499-6549

PRINTING

499-6377 • FAX 499-6617

COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

499-6371

COMMUNICATION MAINTENANCE

499-7313 • FAX 499-3738

REAL ESTATE

499-6578 • FAX 446-7373

ROAD MAINTENANCE

499-7388 • FAX /499-3656

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

499-6528

TRANSIT DISTRICT

499-6099 • FAX 499-6939

WASTE MANAGEMENT

499-6647 • FAX 446-7373

Farhad Mansourian, RCE
Director

August 18, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000, San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Directors:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIR/EA for the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project on the Golden Gate Bridge. In addition to the Bridge paths being an element of the Coastal Trail, as noted in the Draft EIR/EA, both bridge sidewalks are identified in the "Marin County Unincorporated Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan" latest update adopted March 25, 2008 as 'Existing & Proposed Class 1 Bikeway or Multi-Use Paths' on Figures 3.2 and 5.2.

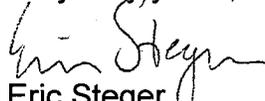
5a

The Draft EIR/EA indicates (page 2-141) that pedestrian and bicycle access would be maintained during construction of the project, including the night time access for bicyclist. As a significant bike/pedestrian corridor, we strongly support maintaining pedestrian and bicycle access during construction.

5b

Please feel free to contact me at 507-2754 should you have any questions about these comments.

Very truly yours,


Eric Steger
Senior Civil Engineer

C: Farhad Mansourian, Director

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2008
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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LETTERS AND EMAILS

Organization Comments

Garrett Glasgow
Political Science 9420
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9420
August 7, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Lee, PE, Project Manager
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Administration Building, Bridge Toll Plaza
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129-0601

Via e-mail attachment (JYLee@goldengate.org)

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report, Golden Gate Bridge Physical
Suicide Deterrent Project,

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thank you for the chance to review and comment on this draft environmental impact document. As my area of expertise is in social science statistics and research design, I will limit my comments to that topic, in particular the “purpose and need” section of the document.

Section S3 and pg. 1-5, Purpose and Need. The purpose of the proposed project as stated is ambiguous. For instance, Section S3 states “[t]he purpose of the proposed project is to consider a physical suicide deterrent system on the Bridge that reduces the number of injuries and deaths associated with individuals jumping off the Bridge.” As stated, the ultimate goal of the project is unclear – is it designed to save the lives of suicidal people, or simply to keep suicidal people off of the Golden Gate Bridge? There is a difference between preventing suicides at a particular location and saving lives, and this document should state explicitly which of these goals the project is intended to achieve.

6a

A. One interpretation of the purpose of the project as stated is that it is meant to save the lives of suicidal individuals. If this is in fact the goal of the project, then it should be noted that to date no scientific study has been able to demonstrate that physical suicide deterrent systems save lives.

6b

It is true that means restriction (limiting the availability of lethal means to suicidal individuals) has proven effective at reducing suicides by some methods. This evidence of the effectiveness of means restriction as a suicide prevention strategy comes from studies of lethal agents people keep in their homes and might use in an impulsive suicide, such as firearms and prescription medications.

While some have argued that the concept of means restriction might also extend to suicides by jumping from bridges, this is purely conjecture. To date every study on the effectiveness of physical suicide deterrent systems on bridges has been inconclusive – nobody knows whether such systems save lives, or just divert suicides to other locations.

6c

The fact that means restriction works for some methods of suicide but is unproven in the case of bridges is well known among researchers and public health officials. For instance, after endorsing means restriction strategies for firearms, domestic gas, and toxic substances, on the topic of suicide barriers the World Health Organization states:

In addition to the measures described, whose efficacy is attested to by the scientific literature, it is thought that other measures, such as the use of fencing on high buildings and bridges, could also contribute to a reduction in suicide rates, although there is no definitive evidence to support this idea. (p. 87)

In more than 30 years of research, not one study has found evidence that suicide barriers save lives. For instance, in the most recent study on the topic (published in December 2007), Reisch et al. conclude “[b]arriers on bridges may prevent suicides but also may lead to a substitution of jumping site or method” (p.681). In sum, there is no scientific evidence that suicide barriers on bridges save lives. For more detailed information on this point see: <http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/Caltrans.pdf>

Thus, the ability of a physical suicide deterrent system to accomplish this interpretation of the project goal is unknown.

6d

B. Another interpretation of the purpose of the project as stated is that it is meant to simply to keep suicidal people from using the Golden Gate Bridge as their means to suicide. A physical suicide deterrent system is likely to accomplish this goal – numerous studies have demonstrated that the suicide rate on bridges and other tall structures declines when suicide barriers are constructed. Again, this is not proof that lives have been saved – it could be that suicidal individuals simply go elsewhere to end their lives. However, if the goal of the project is narrowly defined as preventing suicide at a particular location (the Golden Gate Bridge), the physical suicide deterrent system is likely to work.

There are two caveats here. First, it should be noted that while physical deterrent systems are generally effective at reducing suicides from bridges, this is not always the case. For instance, the Colorado Street Bridge in Pasadena has seen four suicides in the last 2 years despite having suicide barriers in place (*Pasadena Star-News*, various dates). This is a higher rate of suicide than the average rate of suicide from this bridge in the period before the barrier was installed (based on newspaper reports, approximately 1.25 per year). In the event a physical deterrent system is installed on the Golden Gate Bridge this case should be studied to determine if the recent failure to reduce the suicide rate at this bridge is due to a design flaw or an unforeseen maintenance issue with the system.

However, this case may simply be an indication that physical deterrent systems are unable to prevent determined individuals from committing suicide.

Second, this narrow definition of the goal of the project is at odds with the public understanding of the goal of this project. Most existing public support for this project is based on the belief that the ultimate goal of the project is to save lives. If the actual goal of the project is simply to move suicidal behavior away from the bridge, without regard for the ultimate fate of the suicidal individuals, this must be made clear in the document.

6e

C. In conclusion, this document is unclear about what the actual purpose of the project is (keeping suicidal people away from the bridge or saving lives). If the actual goal of the project is to save the lives of suicidal individuals, the document must note that there is no scientific evidence that a physical suicide deterrent system will accomplish this goal. If the actual goal of the project is simply to keep suicidal people away from the Golden Gate Bridge without regard for saving lives, this must be made clear in the document so the public can make an informed decision about whether to support what amounts to a \$50 million suicide diversion project.

6f

Sincerely,
Garrett Glasgow

References:

Reisch, T, U Schuster, K Michel. 2007. "Suicide by Jumping and Accessibility of Bridges: Results from a National Survey in Switzerland." *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 37:681-687.

World Health Organization. 1998. "Primary Prevention of Mental, Neurological, and Psychosocial Disorders." Accessed online at <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/924154516X.pdf>.



*Kate Gillespie, Co-Chair
Daniel Leach, Co-Chair
Wendy Todd, Vice-Chair
Gary Scheppke, Secretary
Judy Arnold, Board of Supervisors
Alan Carr
Kim Denn
Jonathon Gurish
Jacqueline Janssen
Hilarie Kane
Beverlee Kell
Molly Light
Robin Mullin*

July 22, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129

Dear Members of the Golden Gate Bridge District:

At the July 21, 2008 meeting of the Marin Mental Health Board, we discussed the Environmental Impact Report for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project. After a long discussion, they asked me through a unanimous vote to deliver the following message to you.

Please know that the Marin Mental Health Board is tasked with representing and advocating for the mental health needs of the people of Marin by being fully informed on all related issues in order to promote a creative, comprehensive and dynamic mental health system of care. Our role is to inform and advise the Community Mental Health Services Director and Marin Board of Supervisors on mental health issues, and to promote education, prevention and early intervention to meet the needs of the mentally ill.

During the last year, our board has had many discussions about the sobering topic of suicide and the Bridge. Together, we watched The Bridge, the movie produced by Eric Steel. We held a joint meeting with the San Francisco Mental Health Board, and listened to comments by families and friends of people who had fallen to their deaths from the bridge. We have talked with Kevin Hines, one of the survivors of the 250 foot plunge. We adopted a resolution in February which we sent to our Board of Supervisors where we found the absence of a suicide barrier on the bridge to be a hazard to public safety and urged that the Bridge District undertake the detailed design of a suicide barrier. Some of our members have walked the Bridge, and catalogued the location of cameras, emergency phones, and signs.

Regarding this EIR, we offer these comments:

1. The EIR fails to provide enough information about the current suicide prevention protocols. It should address the current coverage by cameras of the bridge walkways and rails, how these cameras are monitored, profiles and techniques used to identify potential jumpers and steps used to refer these individuals to mental health services, action plans

7a



1. to prevent jumps, response times of bridge workers, procedures used to refer these individuals to mental health services, distances between emergency phones (especially over water) and time required for pedestrians to traverse these distances on foot, daily coverage of bridge patrols, and suicide prevention training of staff assigned to answer phones or respond to those in crisis.

7a

2. The EIR does not consider a viable alternative: use of a transparent material (glass or a synthetic polymer) as a barrier. This technology is successfully employed on bridges in New Zealand, including long-span suspension bridges over water.

3. The EIR fails to identify the true cost of the no-build alternative, including the cost of bridge and public employees in San Francisco and Marin counties responding to suicides and suicide attempts, recovery, transfer/transport of persons or bodies, helicopter and boat searches, hospitalizations of survivors, staff or volunteer training, suicide prevention and outreach activities, equipment (cameras and phones), and monitoring of cameras and phones.

7b

4. Of the design alternatives currently presented in the draft EIR, we find the netting alternative to be the most promising. Yet, we have concerns about the functional aspects of this system in preventing use as a launch for a further journey to the water, the impact of a fall of a distance of 20 to 24 feet into the net, maintenance of the netting (including the cycle for repainting), and the protocols for responding when the net is engaged by a jumper.

7c

Furthermore, we support the introduction of a toll to offset the cost of suicide prevention. It is common to charge fees for access to architectural icons. There are other bridges that require pedestrians and bicyclists to pay a fee to use the bridge. A pedestrian/biker toll for costs of construction and maintenance of the suicide prevention system is similar in principle to the current collection of auto tolls. We therefore urge the bridge district to undertake a study and public education effort about this potential means of raising funds for suicide prevention improvements.

7d

Sincerely,

Kate Gillespie

Marin Mental Health Board

Resolution Regarding Construction of a Suicide Barrier on the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge

WHEREAS, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States Claiming over 31,000 lives each year; and,

WHEREAS, Research indicates that most people who commit suicide have an untreated but treatable mental illness, clinical depression or heavy alcohol use, or both; and,

WHEREAS, In Marin County suicide is a leading cause of death claiming over 500 lives since 1997; and,

WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge has been the site of more than 1300 known suicides in the 70 years since its construction, more than any other site in the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, There were more suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge in 1997 than there were traffic fatalities on the bridge during the last quarter century; and,

WHEREAS, Available research indicates that over 90 percent of the individuals prevented from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge do not make another suicide attempt; and,

WHEREAS, It is now possible to design and construct an aesthetically acceptable barrier that will prevent suicides from occurring on the Golden Gate Bridge without detracting from the view or grandeur of this magnificent architectural wonder; and,

WHEREAS, Other architecturally significant structures such as the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower have eliminated suicides by constructing a suicide barrier; and,

WHEREAS, Marin County has a long established commitment to establish and enforce public policies that protect the health, well-being and safety of its residents, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby declare that the absence of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is a hazard to the public's health and safety; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board pledges to work with the San Francisco Mental Health Board to work toward reducing incidences of suicide in our communities; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support and encourage the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to complete a design and consultation contract on the suicide barrier; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby urge the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to proceed with haste to eliminate this public hazard.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mental Health Board of the County of Marin held on this 25th day of February 2008.



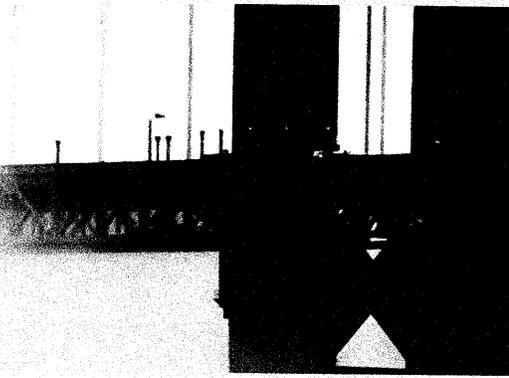
CHAIR, MARIN MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

BY HAND

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 AUG 25 PM 4: 02

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT



The Bridge Rail Foundation

3701 Sacramento Street #466 San Francisco, CA 94118

www.bridgerail.org

August 24, 2008

In my remarks to the board Friday, I had insufficient time to address the EIR. These remarks follow. Thank you for your thoughtful attention.

“Now we approach the end of this \$2 million study. I understand that the prescribed EIR format is the required process. But there are two monumental problems in this case. The first problem is that the EIR format is not designed to address the value of public safety alongside environmental values such as view, birds, and access.

8a

“In the absence of bridge district policy regarding the value of public safety, I quote from an agency that does have such a policy. The BCDC letter of July 23, 2007 to the bridge district declares that its “policies state that ‘...maximum feasible public access <including visual access>...should be provided...*except in cases where public access would be clearly inconsistent..because of public safety considerations...*” (italics mine)

“Ladies and gentlemen, a life-safety danger is a public safety consideration.

“In other words, the first decision properly to be made would have been whether to address this public safety consideration—whether to build a barrier. Once the decision is made to do so, then an EIR is appropriate to address environmental concerns. This *is* the process under way in Washington State, where the governor has declared that a barrier will be built on the Aurora Bridge, which has an average of five suicides per year. Next comes the EIR in Washington State.

8b

“Our process has not taken that route, which brings us to the second monumental problem with our EIR. It stacks the deck against saving lives because its “no-build” option contains propaganda.

8c

“There is always a no-build alternative in every EIR. But typically it is defined as the alternative that fails to address the problem that is motivating the change. In this case the description of the no-build alternative would clearly state that the status-quo fails adequately to address the overriding public safety concern.

8c

“Instead, the description declares that four suicide prevention deterrents are “already” in operation: telephones, patrols, cameras and training. The “already” of course implies that 4 deterrents are enough.

“What the description does **not** report is the *effectiveness* of those four deterrents. According to the Marin County Coroner, they have not changed the suicide rate AT ALL.

8d

“In fact, the EIR takes the entire body of information that undergirds a decision to build a barrier, strips it down to a bald statement of 4 facts and repurposes the state of knowledge to imply that 4 suicide deterrent systems are sufficient. Not so, ladies and gentlemen—not when the suicide rate on this bridge is five (!) times that of its nearest ‘competitor,’ the Aurora Bridge. We can do better than continue the deaths.

8e

“Finally, let me note that in the 70 years of suicide at this bridge, for the first time, Survivors—we who have lost loved ones—have found our voice.

“And until this ongoing tragedy is arrested, every ten days the constituency of Survivors increases.

“Survivors’ grief after years may subside from every-moment suffering, but the pain is never erased. Likewise this ever-growing constituency will never stop speaking out but will persevere along with the growing general public constituency until a barrier is built, the suicides stopped, these lives saved.

“Ladies and gentlemen, you can surmount the problems with our EIR. Please do the right thing—select as our ‘locally preferred alternative’ one of the five ‘build’ options.

“Thank you.”

Sincerely,



David Hull,
President

LETTERS AND EMAILS

Individual Comments



P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org (415) 351-3800

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

Thank you for your interest in the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). Your feedback is an important part of this process. All comments received will be part of the EIR/EA public record. (Personal contact information is optional)

Name: JANET R WILLIAMS Date: 22 JUL 08
Address: 211 SOUTH SOUSALITO CA 94965
E-Mail: N.A. Affiliation: N.A.
PHONE: 415-352-2886

- 1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:
[X] No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
[] Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
[] Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
[] Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
[] Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
[] Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

- 2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:
[] No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
[] Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
[] Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
[] Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
[] Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
[X] Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

THIS 2ND CHOICE IS WAY BELOW 1ST CHOICE!

- 3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).
Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

ALTHOUGH DONE NICELY, I AM STILL DISPLEASED WITH THE "HANDRAIL BARRIER" ADDED BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND ROAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

I HAD A FRIEND JUMP FROM THE BRIDGE MANY YEARS AGO (1960S), SO I AM NOT UNAWARE OF HOW SUICIDE AFFECTS SURVIVORS.

AT ANGOR WAT (CAMBODIA) IN 2001, I ASKED IF PEOPLE EVER FELL OR JUMPED. THE GUIDE SAID, "OH YES." I THOUGHT HOW LUCKY IT WAS THAT ANGOR WAT IS IN CAMBODIA - IF IT WERE IN THE U.S. IT WOULD BE RUINED WITH RAILINGS AND BEWARE SIGNS, IF ANYONE WAS ALLOWED ON IT AT ALL.

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008. Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.

(COVER)

I AM MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE VISUAL,
HISTORIC, AND BIRD IMPACT

x4

I HAVE CROSSED THE BRIDGE 5X A WEEK
FOR 40 YEARS AND AT LEAST 3X A WEEK
FOR 10 YEARS

THANK YOU FOR THIS EXCELLENT PRESENTA-
TION.

From: Randall Van Nostrand [rvn@SNPNET.com]

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 9:27 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Against Suicide Barrier

Please do not put up a suicide barrier. It will ruin a truly magnificent experience for the millions of people ⁹ who cross the bridge each year. Additionally the No Action alternative has not been fully vetted. To make such a huge change to a true American monument without this, is irresponsible.

Randall Van Nostrand

SNP Communications

san francisco I seattle I austin I new york

415.343.3954 office

415.218.0647 cell

415.343.3939 main

TalkBack: www.snpnet.com

Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

2008 JUL 15 AM 11:04

13 July 2008

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

Dear Sir,

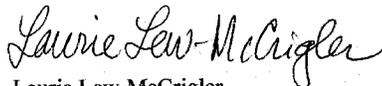
After waiting two years for your study to conclude, you allocate two consecutive days for public comment – and, naturally, I will be out of town. Here are my comments:

1. I do not support any horizontal designs (1B, 2B) since that only encourages people to climb the fencing.
2. The net design is the worst of those proposed: the netting will rot faster than metal, it may require continuous modifications to prevent people from escaping the net, and it definitely requires continual manpower to police the nets and free anyone caught (this could turn into a popular sport).
3. I prefer the vertical designs (1A, 2A). The current 4-foot fence seems to be difficult to paint and one can observe holes where it has rotted through. Thus the completely new vertical fence 2A seems the logical choice. Questions to be addressed: Are the vertical railings close enough so that children cannot get their heads stuck (e.g., banister railings)? Is there a method to easily paint close vertical railings? Are the railings solid enough so they cannot be pried apart?
4. Wow, how amazing is it that **all** five proposed designs cost \$40-50 million?? Who would have thought that such differing designs would each end up costing the same amount? Oh, and could we put a cap on spending so that the contractor pays for everything over the bid price? We have too many examples of projects going with the lowest bid only to end up paying double (triple? more?) the original estimated cost. There should be a penalty for this!
5. I am enthused to see the proposals but I reserve judgment until I actually see a barrier built. After all, a barrier has been proposed numerous times over the last 70+ years but never built.
6. Finally, how much did this two-year study cost? I ask because there are already news reports that the gate toll is increasing in order to pay for regular maintenance. I wonder if it is only a matter of time before we hear there is not enough money for a suicide barrier.

10

Of course, the real question is: how many lives were lost while this two-year study was being conducted? One was my nephew Henry who jumped off the bridge last year, just 3 weeks prior to his high school graduation. I only hope that this is the **last** study and we will actually get a suicide prevention barrier.

Sincerely,



Laurie Lew-McCrigler
2436 Homewood Drive
San Jose, CA 95128

August 19, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

RE: Comment on the Draft EIR/EA and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

To: Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and Caltrans (Lead Agencies for CEQA and NEPA):

The Draft EIR/EA clearly describes a direct adverse effect to the Bridge character-defining features under Cultural Resource impacts for all build alternatives, which also have Section 4(f) effects. Adverse visual impacts are also described for views of the bridge from Vista Point for Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B, which does not meet the District Board criteria to "have minimal visual and aesthetic impacts on the Bridge".

11

The historic resource and Section 4(f) effects of each of the Build Alternatives, in addition to the visual impacts to this internationally prominent historic structure, should render a decision in favor of the No Build Alternative. Deterring suicide attempts on the Golden Gate Bridge would not have prevented the other 599 suicides in the Bay Area in 2005, and will not prevent suicides in the future in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Duffey
Environmental Consultant
1172 Greenwich Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

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WEBSITE COMMENT FORM

Comments Received via the Website Comment Form

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Crystal	Barrett	<p>1 2</p> <p>[I am concerned as to how the net will provide adequate safety for the individual until emergency personnel can arrive at the scene? Or, will the net allow the individual yet another location in which to jump from? Additionally, how easily can emergency personnel access the person who has jumped to the net?]</p>
		<p>1 3 a</p> <p>[The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.]With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example?] What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Yve	Betar	<p>1 3 b</p> <p>I am concerned about the visual impacts associated with alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 3. The non-net alternatives will negatively obstruct the views from the bridge (and could have economic impacts on the tourist industry) and [the netting could adversely impact the appearance of the bridge from points in San Francisco, Marin County, and across the bay.]</p>
Sonia	Binnendyk	<p>1 4</p> <p>I have walked across the bridge several times and have greatly enjoyed the easy views of the City and Marin. The proposed barriers would discourage me from walking across the bridge again because I could only get these views by stopping to peer through fencing.</p>
Erik	Blangsted	<p>1 5</p> <p>[Alternative 3 provides the best visual/aesthetic solution. However, I'm wondering if a jumper who fell into the net could crawl out of the net and fall to his/her death?]</p>
Alan	Blumenthal	<p>1 6 a</p> <p>[don't think the No Action alternative has been properly analyzed and considered.]</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>16a</p> <p>[The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.] With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? [What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
Alan	Blumenthal	<p>16b</p>
MJ	Boyd	<p>17</p> <p>I think the 'net' system is not practice as [it set up a system for people to throw objects --garbage and then someone has to maintain it...]</p>
Kell	Brigan	<p>18a</p> <p>18b</p> <p>[Would birds nest more on Option #3 than they do on the bridge currently?] [If so, would this be a hardship for maintenance workers, or otherwise interfere with air flow or the effectiveness of the net?]</p> <p>Congratulations on reaching this milestone.</p>
Kell	Brigan	<p>18c</p> <p>[About Option #3: would it be possible for an especially fit person to climb to the edge of the net, and "complete" a suicide attempt? Also, isn't there a possibility that thrill-seekers (not suicidal, just dumb) might jump into the net just for kicks?]</p> <p>(My second comment. Left some stuff out.)</p>
Kell	Brigan	<p>18d</p> <p>[1) Re. #3 -- I wonder what impact the net might have on maintenance workers. Would they be safer, ultimately, or would having to move the net to get around add risk?]</p> <p>2) Generally, please look at options for spreading the cost around. The Bridge is a State treasure, as well as San Francisco's, so it seems reasonable that the rest of us cough up something to help with expenses. Even though the State budget is probably unavailable, private donations could go a long way to help, should money be a concern. There are 35 some-odd million folks in California. Even if only 1 in 100 people feels strongly enough about this issue (show 'em Dr. Sieden's study, and they'll care), we should still be able to come up with some cash.</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
EM	Byrne	<p data-bbox="253 1092 285 1457">[The nets could entangle birds.]</p> <p data-bbox="315 420 347 1457">Alternatives with "transparent" panels are dangerous to birds that will fly into them at high speeds.</p>
		<p data-bbox="373 247 516 1457">[The "No Build" 'Alternative' should be STRICKEN. This is NOT an alternative. We have a responsibility to make our buildings, structures, bridges, and roadways safe. Do we allow people to walk on highways? NO! Because it's not safe. This makes perfect sense.] [Furthermore, the current rail does not meet current building codes. This makes the bridge district liable for legal action from any family that has suffered a loss.]</p>
Christina	Castaneda	<p data-bbox="552 382 584 1457">[Alternative 3 is interesting, but there are various concerns that make me think it is an inferior option.</p> <p data-bbox="613 613 646 1457">-There is not inclusion of an alarm or alert if someone were to jump into the net.</p> <p data-bbox="675 222 727 1457">-There is no consideration listed about how difficult it would be for a person to jump into the net and then climb to the edge and jump.</p> <p data-bbox="756 621 789 1457">These considerations make me wonder how effective the net could really be.]</p>
		<p data-bbox="824 214 899 1457">The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for modifying a historic structure clearly permit modifications for the purpose of public safety. Thus, any of the alternatives that actually prevent suicides would seem to be acceptable, though some are more preferable.</p>
Robert	Cherny	<p data-bbox="928 323 1010 1457">[Given the information presented, Alternative 3 is not obviously likely to be as effective as any of the other alternatives. Could not a person jump first into the net, and then climb over the side?]</p> <p data-bbox="1039 235 1120 1457">Finally, regardless of which alternative is chosen, it is important to build a barrier. The significant preponderance of scholarly studies of suicide indicate that some proportion of suicides are acting on a sudden impulse, and that removing the opportunity to act on the impulse may well prevent that person from committing suicide ever.</p> <p data-bbox="1149 231 1230 1457">A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency established the current value of a human life at \$6.9 million (SF Chronicle, July 11). At that price on human life, it requires only a little arithmetic to determine that building a barrier would become cost-effective after deterring only a relatively small number of people from committing suicide.</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>2 2a</p> <p>[The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.] With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? [What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Paul	Clark	<p>2 2b</p>
Amanda	Coggin	<p>2 3</p> <p>[It would be good to study the effects of the barrier on bird life, if at all possible, through other bridge barrier research.]</p>
Ms	Cossio	<p>2 4</p> <p>[Have they assessed what the cost of making any of the alternatives "carbon-neutral" would be?] I'm sure all of the energy and materials that would go into any of the projects would be significant, so again, why would we waste time and money and harm the environment and the aesthetics of the bridge to simply reduce the incidence of suicides? If we have to start bubblewrapping all of the "dangerous" places in this world to save them from humankind's whims, we're in trouble.</p>
Penni	Cremen	<p>2 5</p> <p>[I like the idea of a net system, however, I am not convinced that the proposed system would prevent suicide. It seems that it would help slow the process down, but could a person still get through if they wanted. Also, my fears is that it would be used as a prank/dare by some. Generally, I like the idea but have questions/concerns about.]</p>
Susan	Daniloff	<p>2 6</p> <p>[I am seriously concerned about the impact on birds with any of the Build options.] I am also dismayed about changes to the historical structure of the bridge. I feel that the current methods in place to deter suicide attempts should be continued.</p>
Jennifer	Dever	<p>2 7</p> <p>[Although the report clearly states these alternatives would not directly impact wildlife, the construction process would. It is not worth risking further damage to the sensitive coastal shrub/scrub region at the staging area.]</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Christine	Diehl	<p>28</p> <p>[the images of proposed barriers that I saw did not really portray how the net approach would look from different angles, so I felt I couldn't vote for that option.] Both of the horizontal options literally made my skin crawl. The horizontal lines clashed horribly with the vertical lines of the bridge. I can't even imagine why anyone would support that idea. My concerns with the replacement of the existing handrail in the vertical design was the clear windows. On principle they seem like a great idea, but in ten years I imagine they will be scratched/tagged/etc. and less attractive.</p>
		<p>29a</p> <p>[The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.]With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? [What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Helga	Dietrich	<p>29b</p>
Pamela	Doerr-Kashani	<p>30</p> <p>please do not use a net- [it won't stop someone as they can climb over the edge also]</p>
Theresa	Edison	<p>31</p> <p>[I believe the net will attract thrill seekers as well as garbage, creating an unsightly mess.]</p>
		<p>32a</p> <p>[The environmental analysis does not adequately address the historic nature of the bridge.]</p>
Jason	Elepano	<p>32b</p> <p>[Additionally, the impact of any changes need to study the impact to wind resistance. Engineering analysis on the changes to resonant frequencies of the structure]</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>33 Hello. I am a Staff Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Fish and Game. I see that bird impacts are being considered as part of the environmental document. I urge you to carefully analyze the potential for bird entanglement (nets) and strikes (windows), including potential effects on young falcons learning how to fly. How will impacts be minimized or avoided? Thank you.</p>
Melissa	Escaron	<p>Melissa Escaron Staff Environmental Scientist California Department of Fish and Game</p>
		<p>34a The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Paul	Felton	
		<p>35b The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Porter	Felton	
Kaye	Fichman	<p>36 I prefer the more open designs but would be willing to have one of the designs that maintains the current guardrail if it would save money not to remove it. It is likely that some money would be saved by not needing the Bridge Patrol for suicides. The net would require recurring costs of taking people out of the net. In any case, the main thing is that we act humanely and create a suicide deterrent as soon as possible.</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Rick	Fieber	I do not feel that any of the systems contemplated will detract, visually, from the span. [I do have concerns about the horizontal net. What happens if the net fails, or if, during rescue of a person, there is an accident? A tall guardrail (vertical) would stop most attempts, but the truly, truly determined might find success without danger to rescuers.]
Randy	Fugle	[Concerning the EIR, it should be addressed that the the 19 GG Bridge Directors have a community responsibility to joint he other institutions that have constructed fencing to stop suicides from their structures. From the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and other buildings and bridges that have put up fencing to stop suicides. This public responsibility should have been addressed more completely in the EIR.]
Peter	Gerdes	[I'm disturbed by the inadequate discussion of the need for the project. Whether or not a project should be avoided because of a too large environmental impact depends significantly on the need and importance of the project.] This report doesn't cite any of the massive economic literature on the value of a statistical life or otherwise show that a suicide barrier is a cost effective way to save lives compared to other alternatives, e.g., improving highway signs and barriers. I would be happy with any of the barrier options. 1A and 1B keep the classic look of the original railing. The horizontal system does not conjure up an association of prison bars (though if it makes it somehow easier to climb the horizontal rungs, I'd go for vertical). But all the barriers are fine. [The net is NOT a good option for the following reasons: (1) people can still kill themselves if they get down to that level, and they can injure themselves falling 20 feet, making life considerably harder; (2) rescue options involved will traumatize rescue workers and tax scant resources and compassion, especially when it backs up traffic; (3) the net may well become a different kind of magnet--for pranksters and daredevils.]
Lorrie	Goldin	[As a point of survey research, I am curious and dismayed by the decision to put "No Build" in the number one position. Any pollster will tell you that position on a ballot significantly influences choice. Please consider revamping for the remainder of the comments period. At the very least, it would be an interesting and almost zero-cost experiment to see if this survey suffered from such subliminal prejudicing.]

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>4 1</p> <p>[The draft EIR/EA contains very little analysis of the suicide problem generally, but merely assumes that physical measures to further reduce the incidence of suicide at the bridge will be beneficial.] This is not necessarily so. The report acknowledges that most potential suicides are prevented by measures already in place. Suppose physical measures make suicide at the GG Bridge all but impossible. It may be then that another place will become the favored place for potential suicides, and that place will not have the system for intervention that the GG Bridge District has now, which appears to be remarkably effective. The total number of suicides may actually increase by forcing the problem elsewhere. Perhaps the GG Bridge District will solve its own problem, but not the problem of suicides generally.</p> <p>I believe the GG Bridge District should leave the bridge as it is and strive to improve the current system for identifying potential suicides and intervening when possible.</p>
Gary A.	Hill	<p>4 2 a</p> <p>[Please also consider maintenance costs of the various options. This is not called out in any of your materials, but I have heard that the net system would have (by far) the greatest maintenance costs.]</p>
Steven	Hull	<p>4 2.b</p> <p>[Also, the net system is not viable unless there is some sort of alarm that would sound when someone jumped into the net. Or some way to alert CHP or someone who would get the person out of the net before they could crawl to the edge and jump again.]</p> <p>I cannot imagine that the alternatives having the "Transparent Panels" are feasible given that they will have to be cleaned from the outside every single day. Anyone living around salt air would know this fact. You alternatives selection criteria include two related to "maintenance".</p>
Janice	Hutton	<p>4 3</p> <p>[Also, it is highly speculative to imply--as the Statement of Purpose does--that this investment will deter suicides. It can only be said that this will deter suicides "ON THE GG BRIDGE". Nobody can claim that any of the "estimated" 23 suicides would not have otherwise occurred. I urge the Board to keep this in mind as they sympathetically hear claims to the contrary from parents and professional.]</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>4 4</p> <p>[The age old format of EIR/EIS's seems to not apply in contemporary times. We can no longer evaluate just the physical or aesthetic or biological impacts of a project--we must look to deeper social needs/impacts/priorities of proposed projects. If these subjects are usually addressed under "Community Impacts" then this EIR is sorely lacking because it did not include this section.]</p>
Gene	Jack	<p>What about a project alternative which allocates the \$50 million construction budget on schools, and/or in suicide prevention programs, and/or in drug programs, and/or to provide better medical care, jobs and housing so that people would not be so depressed that they want to kill themselves? If we, in the Bay Area do not address our social issues people will continue to kill themselves at alarming rates suicide barrier or not. This project is not the best alternative to minimize suicide in the Bay area and the impact of squandering \$50 mil for a very large band-aid was never addressed.</p>
		<p>The vertical system which encompasses the handrail preserves the classic golden gate image while providing a barrier of protection.</p> <p>The horizontal system unfortunately gives the sensation of a fence more from my perspective. It seems to be more like a detention camp feeling rather than a preventative barrier.</p>
		<p>4 5</p> <p>[The net system is simply only a minor barrier. Individuals who manage to recover from the net fall who still feel the need to continue will simply roll off the net.]</p>
Kevin	Johnson	<p>I feel that the vertical solution is the most aesthetic and proper method of deterrent. However viewing the vertical concepts I question the height of the vertical barrier. If a individual was still inclined to scale the fence would he still be able to stand atop the handrail and then jump and reach the top of the barrier? Perhaps another foot or so would prevent a person from making contact with the top of the fence. Further studies should be conducted into this line of inquiry.</p>
Bob	Ladd	<p>4 6</p> <p>[I believe the Alt. 3 would be least damaging to birds flying by. Some remedial work may have to be done to prevent nesting on it. (I am not considering doing nothing).]</p>
Eugene	Lee	<p>4 7</p> <p>[Possible debris and garbage could be caught using net system.] Not good.</p>
Howard	Markert	<p>4 8</p> <p>[The analysis is inadequate as it does not address the financial impact of the costs of implementing and of the proposals nor the financial impact from the loss of tourism]</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Peter	Massik	<p>[Additional construction will mean more disturbance of surrounding natural areas for staging, likely more pollutants falling into water during construction, and the use of a tremendous amount of natural resources and energy to build barrier.]</p>
Richard	Matzinger	<p>The glass panel solution will soon be covered in graffiti, acid marks and scratches, just like our bus and storefront windows. All of the suicide barrier designs will add to the maintenance costs for the bridge district, forever.</p>
		<p>[The EIR doesn't discuss alternative uses for the 50 million dollars. More beneficial and less damaging projects could be funded with that money, for instance, the movable traffic barrier. People who jump want to die, people driving across the bridge don't want to die.]</p>
		<p>Spending the money on more public transit would save more lives on the highways and via air pollution reduction.</p> <p>Preventing a tiny number of people from using the bridge to commit suicide just means they will go somewhere else, like the new Bay Bridge or simply drive their car into an abutment. There are a thousand other ways to commit suicide and they will simply use another.</p> <p>Barrier proponents who claim that "We must do everything we can..." should be viewed as extremists. We DON'T have to do everything we can and we shouldn't. Society would become bankrupt if we spent the money to do everything these people claim we must do. The suicide barriers are a non-productive use of that money. If we are going to spend money the result should be permanent jobs not temporary construction jobs. The result should be something that will give back to society, like the bridge itself does. That was a truly productive investment.</p>
Barry	Mcgale	<p>[With regards the net, what happens to someone if they still jump over? How are they recovered from the net and how long before they are recovered and can they climb out of it?]</p>
Thomas	Mcnamee	<p>[All the barriers proposed would threaten birds passing through the Golden Gate, several species of which are threatened or endangered under state and/or federal laws.]</p>
Ray	Miller	<p>I am no engineer but I can't believe [the added weight and wind resistance of the alternatives presented will not adversely affect the bridge in the future.] Continue to emphasize prevention as opposed to doing something that could damage a national treasure.</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Gregg	Montarano	<p>I am an electrician on the bridge. I feel for the families that have lost someone to suicide on the bridge, but a deterrent build onto the bridge would put my life in danger. [I hope that the workers lives are taken in consideration, the danger would increase dramatically for us bridge workers. The difficulty of getting to our work areas would in danger my life, as I would now have to walk along the outside of the barrier up to 100-200 feet to access my worker area.] What would you say the my family or the family of any worker who fell because this barrier? Personally I would probably end my career as a bridge electrician and have to find other job somewhere else (and I am sure I am not the only who would leave)</p>
Meghan	Moody	<p>[I am concerned that the net, however, may not completely prevent people from jumping. I believe the following questions should be considered. Has it been tested as safe? If you jump and fall in the net, can you get injured? Is it possible for someone intent on suiciding off the GGB to create an apparatus (e.g. a rope) that can launch him/her further than the 20 feet of protection the net offers?]</p>
		<p>[The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.]With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? [What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Melanie	Morgan	<p>[I did not find the expected stress from wind loads added to the bridge and what impact this may have to life and maintenance costs in the future.]</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p data-bbox="245 457 269 722">Net Alternative</p> <p data-bbox="310 247 550 722">While the net is likely to reduce both the jumps and attempts it is not likely to be as effective as the taller railing alternatives. The argument for the net system hangs largely on a belief that the Swiss experience will be repeated at the Golden Gate. I believe this to be highly unlikely. The number of jumps and attempts from the Golden Gate is much greater than those reported by Swiss authorities. Secondly the use of the Golden Gate as a suicide location has gone on for over 70 years far longer than the problem confronting the Swiss. Finally, while the suicide attempts might be reduced, the net could attract stunt jumpers and thrill seekers in a manner not seen on other less well-known bridges. Serious injury and death could result from these jumps as well.</p>
		<p data-bbox="602 247 755 722">Further, those who do jump and are caught by the net may be able to climb the netting in and subsequently fall to the water. District officials have admitted this in public meetings. One can imagine how long it will take the suicide instruction web sites and there are a number of such sites to post detailed instructions of where and how to fall into the Golden Gate Bridge Net, climb and then fall into the bay. Indeed, knowing the net is a greater challenge could encourage more jumps.</p>
Paul	Muller	<p data-bbox="792 789 816 1054">None of these problems exist with the taller railing alternatives.</p>
K	Munjee	<p data-bbox="849 247 954 722">I cannot tell from the images, but in Alternative 3, it seems to me someone could jump from the sidewalk and land on the netting... from there could they not jump over that edge? If so, I think that is not a good idea. If this is not the case, I would be more interested in Alternative 3.</p>
Patrick	Murphy	<p data-bbox="979 247 1084 722">The Draft should be more explicit in stating that none of the proposed changes will ensure that there are no more suicides off of the bridge. In fact, one cannot even guarantee that there will be fewer in the coming years should one of the systems be added.</p>
Rich	Myhre	<p data-bbox="1114 247 1195 722">A functional question: Could someone landing in the Alt. 3 net easily crawl over the edge? I realize psychologically they might elect not to, but how easy is it physically?</p>
Karen	Nygren	<p data-bbox="1222 247 1328 722">How much litter will the net system collect? How will the litter be safely removed? What will be the visual impact of having paper and other garbage collected by the net? Will the net be a "magnet" for people to throw "stuff" into? How much will it cost to continue to clean and maintain the netting?</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Tom	O'Neill	<p>The question of whether to "suicideproof" the bridge is a no-brainer- of course it needs to be done. I'm an architect, and as such I would say that "monkeying with the bridge design" is not the deal- the deal is that adding a suicide barrier is actually "fixing a design flaw"- period. I think you should add tightly stretched vertical stainless steel cables on top of the existing rail- just like modern cable railing systems on buildings, only running vertically. With this, max. visibility is maintained for those walking across bridge. Other option is to replace rail with full-height cables-but why take out the existing rail-when it is nice, and not required ? [As for a net below, what's to keep people from crawling out of the net and jumping ?] A stainless stl. cable rail, topping out at 10', say, would be quite nice. Like I said-there shouldn't even be any debate on this-do it. I read in the paper that most people commenting prefer leaving things as they are. Boy, is that incredible. You should, as they say "ignore alien orders" in this regard-and how/no kidding. Like I said, the bridge has had a "simple design flaw" from day one- fix it !</p>
Grant	Patterson	<p>[The draft should provide pros/cons for each alternative. If there is a ranking for the projected effectiveness of each alternative, it should be listed. It's really hard to wade through all the dense language to figure out the real differences between the alternatives.]</p>
Peggy	Radel	<p>As much as I feel for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, it is not reasonable to remove every possibility of places where one could commit suicide. What next, boxing in every viewpoint in the city? We need to make publically accessible places safe for the vast majority of users. not engineer against every possible misuse of that place. [Even the net system will trap birds.] [And how does that system actually prevent someone from landing in the net and then propelling himself over that barrier?] The cost and impact would actually be lower to employ guides to patrol the bridge to intervene.</p>
Lee	Resnick	<p>[My first thought was .is it possible for someone to jump further out than the Net...but after reading what the said in Switzerland...that they no longer have jumpers...I guess I'm wrong .just not positive. From the pictures..it sure looks like someone could jump further out..if they really wanted to. Anyway that's what I was thinking. Thanks..]</p>
Maggie	Rufo	<p>My only concern with a barrier, which I favor, is that is not impact birds that use the bridge. For instance: [would a net be something that birds would easily become entangled in?]</p>
John	Rynski	<p>[Concerned about the number of birds who may be entangled by net in Alternative 3 and their ability to get loose.] Birds would also slam into transparent panels in Alternatives 1 and 2.</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.]With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example?]What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Virginia	Simpson-Magruder	
Allan	Smorra	<p>1. If the bridge is such an attractive nuisance, have you considered closing the sidewalks and having NO pedestrian access? Quarter-hourly bike shuttles across the span would ensure that no suicidal bicyclists would access the sidewalks. A 6 month trial might yield interesting data.</p>
		<p>2. What liability issues will result if a barrier is built and someone still gets over/under/around/thru it?]</p>
Donald	Stroh	<p>Question: Did installing suicide barriers on other buildings (Empire State Building) lower the overall suicide rate in the city?]</p>
Laura	Swaminathan	<p>All the pictures show views OF the bridge, but not FROM the bridge. I have a tough time envisioning what the view would be like as a pedestrian or cyclist crossing the bridge. Is there any way to include those diagrams to scale? For example, show the skyline of SF through the bars of each of the new barriers, to get a better idea how much each would obstruct the view?]</p>
		<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES.]With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example?]What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides.] The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it</p>
Bren	Taylor	

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Esther	Taylor	<p>74 [Why was the barrier not put in during the construction of the bridge? What keeps the jumper from falling off the net? Could there be a way to make the barriers slippery and literally non climbable?]</p> <p>The horizontal system seems to have the least aesthetic impact.</p>
Stan	Teng	<p>75 [How will trash removal from the netting be accomplished with the horizontal system?]</p>
		<p>76 [One of the items I didn't notice in the Draft EIR was the method that would be employed to rescue those who wind up in the Net System.</p> <p>I understand it would involve shutting down a lane of traffic (Did that get considered in EIR?) and using special equipment to retrieve the people.</p> <p>Has any thought also been given to the potential for trash being thrown in the net, and its removal?]</p>
George	Topor	<p>Thank you.</p>
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	<p>77 [The net system (3) seems like it also may have a negative impact on birds.] I'm curious to know if 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B have more maintenance & cleaning needs than the current system. Based on the observation that it seems that 1A, 1B & 2B have more surface area than the current railing I would think they would require more work, paint & chemicals. Of any of the systems 2A seems to have the least amount of surface area and therefore would require the least amount of work, paint & chemicals to maintain.</p>
Randall	Van Nostrand	<p>78 [the study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in the the No Build alternative was not evaluated equally. The No Build should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Directors 11 criteria.] The No Build already stops 70%-80% of the people. The No Build deserves to be studied to see what can be done for less money.</p>
Leonard	Vinci	<p>79 Alternative 3 will service the purpose well. [One very important matter the net design team must consider. This net must not be a firm net. And the spacing of the net mesh should be no closer than 6" to 8" across. This will cause the person jumping into the net to get tangled up in the net mesh and not allow he/she to simply land on the net and crawl over the edge. When jumping into the net their legs will most likely go through the open net holes, thus making it very difficult or even impossible to climb back on top of the net. The lack of net being firm will also make it very difficult to navigate the surface of the net.] In addition, the design team may want to make the surface of the mesh material uncomfortable when landing on it... This overall netting design would be the best alternative with respect to the current looks of the Golden Gate Bridge.</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
		<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is an International landmark. It is true that people come from around the world to see San Francisco and walk along the beautiful expanse of the Golden Gate.</p> <p>Given the suicide rate off the bridge, ranging between 1,300 and 2,000 souls since it's opening in 1937, I can understand the obvious call for suicide prevention. The aforementioned plans simply don't seem like the right approach.</p> <p>The first options 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B would have an impact on the aerodynamics of the bridge, despite wind-tunnel testing. We have seen storm seasons become more severe and unpredictable every year. To add barriers to an area that is already exposed to extreme winds seems risky at best. In addition, from the diagrams of the alternatives, I can only assume that the transparent panels are Plexiglass or shatter-proof / bullet-proof glass. If Plexiglass, they would be prone to scratching / carving and saltwater erosion. If shatter / bullet proof, the weight and cost would be substantial. In either case, both types are vulnerable to graffiti. All these alternatives would greatly inhibit visitor's views from the bridge.</p>
Alicia	Watkins	<p>[Regarding the third alternative, this only seems like a speed-bump for a jumper. They would leap from the rail, hit the net, then crawl to the edge of the net and jump again. I don't consider this to be a preventative measure at all.]</p>
Wait	Watkins	<p>[Charge pedestrians & bikers with toll booths @ each sides & ends.] This would help by having someone who may see the sadness in someones eyes & could get them some help. The sad person may not bring or have money to get on the bridge. And would generate income for the bridge so you dont have to keep raising the motor tolls. After all no mater how you do it, you still cross the bridge weather you are walking, biking or driving. The toll booths would (with properly trained personel) possible get the sad person the help that they need. Wait Watkins, Pealuma, CA</p>
		<p>I am actually scared of the net alternative. People could still get hurt, and it doesn't really deter crazy people who</p>
Lynn	Wellman	<p>want to jump. [So what if the net catches them? What if they jumped head first and broke their neck?] That's not only unsafe, but kind of gross.</p>
Arlene	Wilshusen	<p>[I believe they have done a remarkable job of finally accessing the environmental aspects of the "enhancements" to the walking part of the span.]</p>
		<p>Alt 1B seems most effective relative to purpose of retrofit. With curled top it becomes virtually impossible to scale.</p>
Laura	Winfrey	<p>[Net alternative seems porrest option- why not jump off/out of net?] The frequent numbers of suicides from the bridge detracts from the beauty and inspiration relative to the bridge. The fix will not change the look of the bridge relative to the whole structure!</p>
Randall	Young	<p>[May want to include some historical information about the bridge and restore some of the military sites around on bridge property.]</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Amy	Zahler	<p>Wouldn't birds be likely to become entangled in the nets if those were used? Also, birds would likely crash into the acrylic view panels proposed.</p>
Bridge Rail Foundation		<p>Position on the alternatives under consideration for the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent</p> <p>Resolution approved at meeting of July 28, 2008</p> <p>Be it Resolved: that the Bridge Rail Foundation strongly encourages the Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors to reject option # 6 (no-build) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report: "take no action". And be it further Resolved: that the Golden Gate Bridge Board proceed directly to adopt the best of five alternative options as the "Locally Preferred Alternative".</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>First and foremost we must reject the no-build option, or option #6(no-build). After well over 1,300 deaths and public demands for action to stop the suicides dating back to 1939, a no-build is no acceptable alternative. It must be rejected.</p> <p>We should point out that the Bridge District's description of option #6 in the web site polling system leaves the impression that current District efforts may be sufficient. The suicide death rate at the Bridge has remained constant an average of over 24 per year for over 40 years. No reasonable person could consider this data and conclude the District's efforts are sufficient.</p> <p>Beyond option six, we are presented with five alternatives. Each has distinct strengths and weaknesses, and at first glance, all appear to be reasonable alternatives for stopping suicides. Unfortunately, the technical data, financial information and supporting documentation needed to arrive at a fully informed recommendation are not available. Rather we are asked to judge these options on their visual merit, and a great deal of visual material is presented for that purpose. While many of our supporters and other organizations may have a preference based solely on this visual information, we believe it would be inappropriate for us to do so without also considering all the facts needed to arrive at a recommendation we could stand behind. alternative options as the "Locally Preferred Alternative".</p>

Comments Received after the Comment Period via the Website Comment Form

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Jeff	Andersen	10/10/08: I just read the press release announcing the bridge district voted to approve the addition of nets to the bridge.
		[So, what keeps a jumper from jumping out of the net???
Bob	Anderson	[Now that you have voted for the net, [how effective will that be when the determined individual simply crawls to the edge of the net to finish the deed?] You are willing to spend millions of dollars for this? The far better, and more effective approach (both in cost and in actual prevention) would be to permanently staff professionals to walk the bridge and provide counseling to troubled individuals.
Roger	Arnal	[A determined jumper will jump from the net into the bay.] Save our money. Don't build anything.
David	Ato	The bridge needs more than a barrier to keep people from committing suicide. [They will crawl up the net and jump.] [Who will go after them when a jumper does land in the net?] [Perpetual maintenance.] Spend the money on full time bike patrol officers or volunteer jump guards. They can talk to visitors about the bridge while they eyeball the possible jumpers. It is a waste of money. Perpetual maintenance for an eyesore. The only place to install a preventative measure is where a jumper will land on some person visiting Fort Point. Please be smart about this. If a person decides that suicide is the only way out for them, the bridge is only one way. You cannot stop them from jumping in front of a car or off a building or some other method. The Bridge District needs to stop cross-over head on collisions before they even think about this other matter.
Daniel	Bloom	[What stops someone from jumping down to the net and then walking/crawling to the edge of the net and then jumping?]

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Committer First	Last	Comment
David	Bohman	<p>Please do not waste any more time or effort (money) on this. It is ill-conceived and isn't likely to have a significant impact on suicide attempts.</p> <p>Please focus on adding a barrier between the opposing vehicular lanes, and work on the approach routes / roadways as needed.</p>
		<p>[Has anybody considered the effect this supposed "barrier" is going to have on rescues required as a result of failed attempts with the barrier?] [Will the "barrier" place police, fire and other individuals at greater risk when they must respond to a failed attempt?] [Will it impact other uses of the bridge during a rescue operation?]</p>
Bill	Brunt	<p>I think placing any sort of a barrier to prevent suicides off the bridge just a waste of time and money.</p> <p>As I understand it, a series of steel nets at a cost of \$40-\$50 million was approved.</p>
		<p>[Wouldn't some just jump into the net and then jump off of there?]</p>
Jim	Cauble	<p>If absolutely necessary, choose the least expensive system possible, it won't do any good anyway, as any system can be circumvented, climbed over, cut through, or in the case of a horizontal barrier, simply rolled off of.</p>
		<p>During this economic disaster, I think it is totally irresponsible of the district to spend \$50 million on a system that cannot be effective. [What is to keep a determined person from simply rolling off the horizontal barrier and still plunging to their death?] I sincerely hope you will reconsider at least until funds are more readily available. Look at the big picture and do the right thing for the taxpayers.</p>
Steve	Evans	<p>Alt 3, the one chosen, is the only one that doesn't actually work. The GGTD is going to become a laughing stock for picking something that:</p>
		<p>1) doesn't actually work [(suicide attempters will jump down to the net and then over the edge they go) (granted, some attempters will be deterred)</p>
		<p>2) will cost tens of millions more than intended due to wrongful death and disability cases [(people can and will still break their necks when jumping to the net, and they will be able to justifiably blame the Authority)]</p>
		<p>3) cause untold misery for those (and their families) that are injured in the jump to the net.</p> <p>Leave the bridge alone. And let people make their own choices in life (and death).</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Rich	Fritz	<p>The problem of suicides from the G.G.B. has always been here since the Bridge was built. I don't believe that this Landmark and Historical structure should be physically changed in any way but rather finding a better solution to preventing these suicides from happening. Through increased security and cameras and awareness of the public to act if someone appears to be lingering or otherwise indicating unusual behavior. Also through more intense study and counseling for those with illnesses that cause this behavior resulting in suicide, thus preserving the natural beauty of the Bridge and its original structure in fact as it was intended to be. While suicides are truly a problem it is not one that can be "fixed" or otherwise prevented in this way. There are deeper and much more serious problems at work here that a physical change to this bridge will never really stop all suicides from happening and is it really the responsibility of the authority or government to take on? [Could this eventually lead to other Legal and financial problems in the future? ie: (The installment of a suicide Barrier is admission that the Bridge is a contributing factor in the suicide of my Son/Daughter so the family is suing.) You should have foreseen this as a problem years ago. I disagree with adding any structure to the Bridge. Thank You.</p>
Dave	Garcia	<p>... time was people paid a tax to benefit the people paying the tax. now - stupid 25 million plus dollars already spent to stop a few suicides from a world landmark? our beautiful g.g. bridge</p>
		<p>[and how is suicidal person to be rescued from said net?] call in the coast guard for \$18,000./hr then close half (or all) the bridge affecting 70,000 ppl for 6 hours or more. \$4,700,000.00 / hour then pay , pay pay. chp overtime. average joe now gotta pay baby-sitter extra, missed business, ad-naseum are you all insane? to pick someone out a net who will undoubtedly sue the city cuz he was injured while being rescued? and the city will pay!!! (family will be happy) then they goes home and slit their wrists w/ a knife in the bathtub why don't we outlaw knives also? someone may use it to kill themself ha ha, cry cry, ha ha "stop-the-world and let me off..."</p> <p>you nuts are paying millions per suicide while medicare is being cut and gg tolls raised. im gonna vote you whackos out if you spend any more stupid money - then ask for toll increase... what planet you aliens from?</p>

Commenter First	Last	Comment
Culver	Heaton	Dear Gentle Stupid Board Members: If indeed the screen is 20 feet below the bridge and about 20 wide, [How simple it would be to jump to the screen and then jump off the screen to the water below.] You folks need to stop listening the Engineers and all go see a good Shrink. \$40-\$50 mil. can be better spent. If someone really wants to jump, they are going to jump all be it from the golden gate or another high place. Raise the rail if you want to slow them down a bit. I really don't have a problem a modification to the railing.
Anthony	Hernandez	I understand that the net idea was approved. A net gives the best possible view while minimizing weight and wind loading and is therefore the best idea. The problem is that the current design, based on the rendering I saw, is INEFFECTIVE. [People need only crawl to the edge of the net and jump off from there.] Furthermore, the guy wires holding the supports can themselves be used to defeat the net... [and someone colliding with one of the supports risks serious injury.] I have a design for a net that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improves the from-deck view even more. - Is escape-proof. - Protects rescuers as well as the victim. - Minimizes chances of injury. - Minimizes possible bird roosting/damage - Can be upgraded to prevent multiple suicides (such as the parent who threw his childrne off and jumped in after them) I am pleased to provide drawings and written description on request. Anthony Hernandez
Scott	Hutchison	[I saw in the news you approved the net system.] Maybe there's something I'm not understanding, but [won't people just jump down to the net and then crawl to the edge and jump off the net into the water?] It doesn't seem like a horizontal system would really do much good in preventing potential suicides, unless they're really lazy or uncoordinated.
Lauren	P	Why don't you just enclose the walkway? Is someone wants to kill themselves, [they will jump onto the net, and then jump from there.]

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Deane	Peterson	<p>First, from an aesthetic perspective, I think that any of the proposed physical deterrents will detract from the beauty of the bridge--from the perspective of those viewing the bridge at a distance and especially from the perspective of those on the bridge who are trying to enjoy its beauty and the beauty of San Francisco and the bay. My wife and I still remember our Golden Gate walk across the entire bridge from San Francisco to the opposite side and back again at sunset as one of the most memorable events of our trip there about six years ago during a medical conference there. I remember the beauty of the bridge, the impressiveness of its history, and the relaxing and awe-inspiring view of the beautiful bay below and of the shoreline on each side of the span. I can only imagine how much this beauty would have been detracted from by wire netting below hindering our views of the bay--and the impact on our photographs. When you consider the enormous amount of money that this project will cost, the few suicides that it might actually prevent, and the other far more valuable uses--and more tangible benefits--for the money that would be spent on a physical deterrent system, I would strongly encourage you all to consider other solutions--if you indeed do anything additional at all.</p> <p>Deane Peterson, APRN-BC, MA, MS, MSN, MPH, EdD</p> <p>As a family nurse practitioner for 10+ years, with masters degrees in psychology, nursing, public health, and economics, I certainly care about the welfare of my patients and have a keen interest in prevention. Depression and suicide/suicide prevention are serious issues that need to be better addressed by society and our healthcare system. However, my understanding is that this project will cost around 40 to 50 million dollars. This seems an enormous expenditure with potentially no--or very little--benefit. If someone is truly serious about committing suicide, they are probably going to be successful at it, and if you effectively take away one of their suicide options, they will likely find another option that will provide them with the same outcome. Thus, once the barrier is built--if indeed it does effectively prevent suicides--it is likely that people who would have jumped from the bridge will likely still commit suicide but just through other means. So, you won't have your bridge suicides; you'll just have those same suicides elsewhere.</p> <p>[Furthermore, what's to prevent a determined person from first jumping onto the barrier netting and then crawling/walking to the edge of the netting until they are again able to jump/fall from the netting to their death below?!] What will you then do...build a barrier under the barrier? How far out do we carry the protections/absurdity?</p>

Committer First	Last	Comment
Deane	Peterson	<p>Finally, if the estimated project costs are accurate--or even close to accurate--you could probably get far more bang for your buck by applying a much smaller portion of the money--even less money than would be earned yearly on such a total expenditure--to mental health programs already in existence and/or to funding an additional program that focuses on suicide prevention. And, in especially in dark economic times like these (but even in good times too), surely we can do far better with such expenditures than merely preventing an average of 30 to 40 suicides yearly. The parts of me that are trained in both economics and public health demands that the greatest good be derived from the least amount of dollars/expenditures. With that constraint, even if you're determined to make such an expenditure in some area (and have those massive funds available), surely there are many other programs that would much more positively impact both mortality and morbidity statistics than building an ugly net around the bridge--a net that I believe will have little impact on preventing San Francisco's overall annual suicide rate. There are far too many other more valuable environmental, animal, and health issues than to waste money on a project like this.</p> <p>Deane Peterson, APRN-BC, MS, MA, MSN, MPH, EdD Family Nurse Practitioner Chattanooga, TN</p>
David	Plunkett	<p>[The Draft Environmental Impact Report is a joke.] My kid could have done that on his computer in about 30 minutes. I hope it was cheap. This is a perfect example of government waste, both of time and money. Build the damn thing!</p>
Ruta	Rudisill	<p>I just sent an email but hit a wrong key before finishing my information. I am now finishing this information below. Sorry.</p> <p>My very first email may have been deleted instead of sent, but if not--please be patient in re-reading my comments on the barrier--I feel that they are important for you to consider.</p>
		<p>1) [Is the net system built in such a way that a jumper CAN'T then just crawl up the side of the net and continue to jump from there?] Now you will have people jumping from a lower position, possible more survivors, but also more extreme injuries to those survivors that someone (maybe the state?) will have to pay to those survivors for the rest of their lives.</p>
		<p>2) Please consider this scenario--knowing that if they jump the net will save them, [you now have "just for the fun of it", thrill seeking kids/adults who want the thrill of the jump but know they will be saved by the net (sort of like bungee jumping--falling but the cord will save you). How will you control that?] That was my first thought--those fun jumpers--and had to write this. I have no connection to the bridge or the authority, so this decision does not impact me in any way. This fun jumping thought was just so strong in my mind that I had to write (and I never write to this kind of thing), so please consider what I have written. Thank you.</p>

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Commenter First	Last	Comment
Edward	Shea	[A NET SYSTEM WOULD REQUIRE IT NOT TO BE ABLE TO CLIMB OUT OF TO CONTINUE ATTEMPT OR GET AWAY.] WE NEED TO DETAIN THE PERSONS AND HELP THEM. The first indication that is a terrible idea is the price tag, ridiculous.
Thomas	Taylor	\$40-\$50 million dollars could fund one hell of a lot 24 hour manned security to prevent suicides. [What would stop someone from crawling out to the edge of the net and jumping?] Anyone that gets to the bridge and actually jumps is certainly not impulsive about it. That is a stupid concept, it takes one hell of a lot of guts to work up the nerve to take your own life in this manner, this person will find a way to do it with or without this bridge because they are in that bad of a way,this isn't going to go away! Anyone who thinks different is overthinking this problem. How about \$40-\$50 million dollars put into the areas services to help people with troubles and prevent more suicides all over these communities not just at the damn bridge. I also think it is incredibly stupid to react as though people committing suicide on the bridge are some how different or more important than other suicides.
J.R.	Williams	Is this a political game? Because is smells bad enough as an idea to be just that! The approve suicide prevention net looks like it won't do the job. [What is to stop people from simply jumping off of the net after they jump off the bridge.] The net needs to be designed to entangle them, or be made out of fly paper so they will stick to it. Then after they are un-stuck by bridge workers or authorities, they can go find a high window to go jump out of. Are you really going to waste 50 million dollars of the tax payers money on this???? If so I am a contractor give me the job.
Lynn	Wright	[There was a comment on a talk show questioning whether or not a person who got hurt on the net could sue the bridge for the injury.] As I understand it, attempted suicide is a common law crime. How can one sue for being injured in the commission of a crime? If attempted suicide IS a crime, could the erection of the net be re-characterized as a crime prevention measure?

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documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the
modern movement

Northern California Chapter
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August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge
Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

To Whom It May Concern:

Docomomo is an international organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of the architecture and engineering works of the modern movement. The Northern California chapter of Docomomo was established in 1996 as a non profit 501(c)3 organization, and its mission has been to promote education and awareness of the modern movement in the Bay Area.

The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most iconic engineering structures of the Modern Movement, and has invaluable historic, cultural and architectural significance. Its significance is due in large part to the cohesive characters of its design and siting. One of its principal character defining features is the design of the existing railing system and the open feeling one experiences on the bridge itself, as either a pedestrian or when viewed from a vehicle. The approach to the bridge from the Marin side is one of the most breathtaking experiences anywhere in the world of a bridge passage – starting from the feeling of compression in the Waldo tunnel, the sighting of the bridge towers as one exits the tunnel, the rapid and curved descent to the bridge and the sudden expansive feeling of openness, with amazing views of the bridge and the bay that one experiences on the bridge itself.

The Northern California chapter of Docomomo strongly recommends that physical changes not be made to the bridge that impact its character defining features, and are not related to required seismic or transportation improvements. We believe that the funds used for creating a physical suicide barrier could be better spent on non-physical suicide prevention means, such as more mental health treatment programs and increased bridge patrols.

If the Bridge District were to move forward with a physical suicide barrier, we believe the only alternative that does not negatively impact the character of the bridge deck and the experience for most visitors to the bridge is Alternative 3, the net solution. If this solution were to be chosen significant attention should be paid to the design of the netting to minimize its visual impact. We do not believe International Orange would be the appropriate color of the netting, but that a darker color would have less impact.

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In summary, Docomomo Noca recommends that no physical suicide barrier be built. If the Bridge District were to proceed with a physical barrier, we recommend that a solution be selected, such as Alternative 3, which has minimal impact on the character of the railings and minimal visual impact for pedestrians and those in vehicles on the bridge deck.

Sincerely Yours,



Andrew Wolfram
President, Docomomo Noca

Citizens For a Safe Golden Gate Bridge



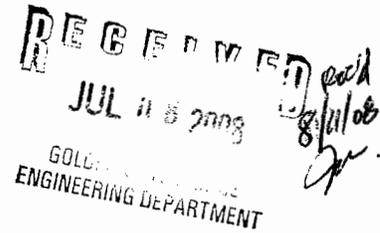
Director John P. Ehlen, P.E.
Director Frank Schweiger
Director Eric J. Schmidt

Robert M. Guernsey
Founder/Chairman of the Board

Director Alexandra F. Ehlen
Director Danna Kirkbride
Director Lucille Dandeleit

Monday, July 7, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District
Mr. Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer
Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA. 94129-0601



Subject: Suicide Deterrent Barrier System.

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

Back in February 24, 2005 you laid-out a "project plan" during a Building & Operation meeting for the suicide deterrent barrier system.

You called it the 106 process! You called for a various plan involving the State and or federal participation, as well as public involvement in raising the funds needed for this suicide deterrent barrier system. You also suggested that CEQA and NEPA reports by ordered. Enclosed a letter sent to you, requesting information on the CEQA and NEPA reports ordered, as well as the wind tunnel test of both systems. "Pedestrian/Bicycle Hand Rail, which you never sent to us.

111

Where do we stand on the 106 process that you very in a classy manner back in February of 2005 for both the suicide deterrent system as well as the movable median traffic barrier as well as the wind tunnel test of both systems – with or with out the barriers? I would think by after defer operating costs, and off setting other projects that now this 106 process would be complete.

Please response to our request for the information at your earliest time.

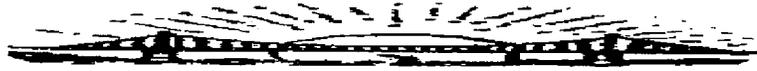
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Guernsey". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Guernsey
Founder/Chairman of the Board

CD
ED
W.M.D.

Citizens for a Safe Golden Gate Bridge



Robert M. Guernsey
Founder & Board Chairman

Director John P. Ehlen, PE
Director Frank Schweiger

Director Alexandra F. Ehlen
Director Danna Kirkbride

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer
Box 9000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA. 94129

RE: Feasibility Study and Report, CEQA and NEPA reports for the Pedestrian/Bicycle Hand Rail

Dear Mr. Mulligan;

I was pleased to see you at the Building and Operating meeting of February 24, 2005. As always, it is a pleasure to listen to your informative reports of engineering safety issues as the 'Suicide and Movable Median Barriers.

If you would not mind sending me a copy of the feasibility study & report, CEQA and NEPA reports for the pedestrian/bicycle hand rail installed on the east and west sides of the span.

Thank you for your time and effort in making the Golden Gate Bridge the world's safest bridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Guernsey



Creogan + D'Angelo
INFRASTRUCTURE
ENGINEERS

ENGINEERING YOUR SUCCESS

August 21, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

Attn: Jeffery Lee, Project Manager

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge - Suicide Barrier

Dear Jeff,

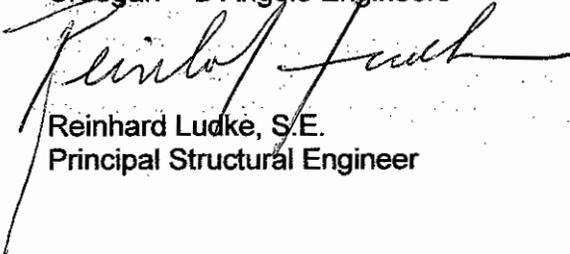
The Golden Gate Bridge is a landmark bridge structure that is recognized around the world. The engineering and design of the bridge in the 1930's created a monument, a sculpture, a piece of art that demonstrates the vision and pinnacle achievement of bridge engineering in America. As I told Denis Mulligan, I think the bridge is the best design of a suspension bridge in the world, and it is a shame and crime to change it unless necessary to protect it. Any changes and additions to the bridge structure diminish the value and do not respect this icon of man's technical and aesthetic capability. I support the no-build alternative.

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I understand the serious and devastating impact of suicide on family and society. I believe that the solution to suicide is not building physical barriers. The solution for suicide prevention is mental health intervention by family and professionals. Why not build cars that will survive impacts?, put locks on all guns?, and make drug overdose impossible by dispensing one tablet at a time? – cars, guns, and drugs result in many more deaths than jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge.

Adding tall barriers to the bridge is another example of a minority issue, bridge suicides generating a "solution" that is a major impact on everybody. A comprehensive suicide prevention study should be performed that includes other non-physical barrier solutions, given that there is \$50 million dollars to combat the problem. There are better solutions, that help more people, for suicide prevention and mental health counseling.

Respectfully yours,
Creogan + D'Angelo Engineers



Reinhard Ludke, S.E.
Principal Structural Engineer

H-75



P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org
(415) 351-3800

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

Thank you for your interest in the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). Your feedback is an important part of this process. All comments received will be part of the EIR/EA public record. (Personal contact information is optional)

Name: JANET R WILLIAMS Date: 22 JUL 08

Address: 211 SOUTH

SAUSALITO City CA State 94965 Zip

E-Mail: N.A. Affiliation: N.A.

PHONE: 415-352-2886

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

THIS 2ND CHOICE IS WAY BELOW 1ST CHOICE!

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

- ALTHOUGH IT DONE NIKELY, I AM STILL DISPLEASED WITH THE "HANDRAIL BARRIER" ADDED BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND ROAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

- I HAD A FRIEND JUMP FROM THE BRIDGE MANY YEARS AGO (1960S), SO I AM NOT UNAWARE OF HOW SUICIDE AFFECTS SURVIVORS.

- AT ANGOR WAT (CAMBODIA) IN 2001, I ASKED IF PEOPLE EVER FELL OR JUMPED. THE GUIDE SAID, "OH YES." I THOUGHT HOW LUCKY IT WAS THAT ANGOR WAT IS IN CAMBODIA- IF IT WERE IN THE U.S. IT WOULD BE RUINED WITH RAILINGS AND BEWARE SIGNS, IF ANYONE WAS ALLOWED ON IT AT ALL.

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.

Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.

(COVER)

I AM MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE VISUAL,
HISTORIC, AND BIRD IMPACT

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I HAVE CROSSED THE BRIDGE 5X A WEEK
FOR 40 YEARS AND AT LEAST 3X A WEEK
FOR 10 YEARS

THANK YOU FOR THIS EXCELLENT PRESENTA-
TION.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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		<p>1) The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few; if there is \$50 millions to spend on the bridge, then that money should go to on-going maintenance, patrols and toll reductions, not to building a suicide barrier.</p>
		<p>2) Historic structures have more meaning as originals. What makes the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, the Taj Mahal and the Golden Gate Bridge iconic structures is that they still stand as they were when they were created. This is the power of architecture and of history and this should be honored, not altered.</p>
		<p>3) The plans which call for plexiglass viewing areas are not well thought out: there is no way that these windows will remain clean in the salty air and car fumes. Hence visitors to the city will lose one of the most important features of the bridge: its incredible views.</p>
Derek	Anderson	<p>The money being proposed should be used in alternative treatment areas - to support mental health initiatives rather than placing a very small bandaid on a big problem. People will find a way to end their lives in some way - no matter what anyone does but we can help far more by offering mental health support services than by spending it on a physical barrier that only addresses a small portion of the population.</p>
Mark	Anderson	<p>From a cultural perspective I am troubled by the impact analysis that suggests the Build Alternatives would cause direct adverse effects to the Bridge, including the complete or partial removal of character-defining features. As a symbol of the city I believe the Bridge should remain untouched. All of the Build Alternatives include some kind of modification to the Bridge, therefore my preference is the No Build option.</p>
Martin	Anderson	<p>Similarly, all of the Build Alternatives have significant visual impacts which, in my opinion, are undesirable, especially given the iconic status of the bridge and its heavy tourist traffic.</p>

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ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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First	Last	Comment
Janet and Lewis	Baer	WE cannot protect everyone from everything, including them(our)selves
Janet and Lewis	Baer	The bridge is a masterpiece and must not be defaced.
		The suicide barrier impacts are well within the tolerable region and the benefits far outweigh any impacts.
		These minor modifications to the rail configuration are in keeping with the original design intent. I doubt if the original designers would have settled on this rail design if they had been able to foresee how many souls would be lost over the rail.
		This reconfiguration of the rail design corrects a regrettable design side effect that was unknown before construction.
Bruce	Bagnoli	This barrier is needed and will save many lives. The lives saved will benefit society, reduce impacts on family and friends. It will reduce emotional impacts to those of us using the bridge who see a jumper, and to bridge workers when suicides occur from the bridge.
		Often people who are saved from a suicide attempt or who survive an attempt are able to get help and rejoin our community. This barrier will reduce the impulsive suicides and give time for intervention.
		The minor visual impacts of 1b,2b, and 3 combined with the reasonable cost make this an important investment, an investment that makes an important statement about the values of our community.
Bruce	Bagnoli	The historic nature of the bridge should not be augmented by such a wasteful and potentially ineffective modification.
Drew	Bailey	Both the impressive view and the dramatic effect of standing atop such a monumental man-made structure will be affected by the proposed modifications to the bridge.
Drew	Bailey	

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Drew	Bailey	From a cultural resources perspective, it is the responsibility of the people of San Francisco to maintain in as close to its original form as possible, such an important historic and cultural symbol.
Drew	Bailey	The Golden Gate Bridge was a symbol of the people of San Francisco's ability to overcome the hardships of The Great Depression. It is representative of all the things that once made this country great, and any such frivolous change lessens its importance to future generations of Americans.
Drew	Bailey	Tourism. Remember that great view? The feeling of standing right at the edge of such a tremendous, and man-made precipice will be gone.
		"Lets go see the Golden Gate Bridge!"
		"Yay"
		"Now lets walk across the Golden Gate Bridge!"
		"Whatever - maybe I would have before the put up that lame barrier..."
Drew	Bailey	None that I can think of. Less food for the fishes maybe...
Drew	Bailey	Even in terms of human biology I think the barrier is a terrible idea. It is unlikely to prevent any serious suicide attempts, and it is very likely to infuriate the people of San Francisco to such a degree that a rash of rage induced aneurisms and heart attacks may result.
Drew	Bailey	I fail to see how Alternative 3 would provide much of a means of protection. Presumably, one so inclined could jump into the net and then jump over the edge of the net into the water. It seems unlikely that such a system would deter one seriously driven to commit suicide. That being said, it is the least aesthetically displeasing of the Alternatives.
		I personally love the unobstructed view given by the current railing setup, and feel that non-physical deterrence is the best option for the majority of people.
		I would be curious to know if erecting a suicide barrier would cause people to use an alternative means, such as the Bay Bridge, or if it's simply a matter of "convenience" that the bridge is nearby and a barrier would prevent the suicide attempt altogether.
James	Bailey	
kevin	bailey	we need to spend money on people who want to live that are in need, or better spent on a divider for the bridge to prevent on coming accidents.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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		<p>I believe that going with option 3 will satisfy both sides of this debate. Option 3 is the most aesthetically appealing of all the options. Provided it is built right, it has the possibility to be a safer alternative to the other four options, 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B. If a person were to attempt a jump with option 3, they will at least experience somewhat, what it will be like to jump from the bridge. Hopefully enough of a hair raising experience to make them think twice about what they were doing. If an individual were to go with any of the other options, they would simply have to climb over if possible, the higher barrier would also be aesthetically unpleasing, tourism for the bridge would most likely decrease as well. If a vertical barrier is chosen, I recommend a clear Plexiglas barrier. The Plexiglas barrier would have supporting posts every 10 feet to secure it the the original hand railing. If one were to climb up on the hand railing, it would be hard for them to find anything to grip while trying to scale the Plexiglas barrier. The option would be for the person to destroy the barrier requiring tools that are not available. In the time it would take the person to find these tools, prevention services would already be on scene.</p> <p>The negative to employing a net type system are as follows. If one were to jump, assuming they are still convinced to do so after landing in the net, they could easily climb out and jump again. The option would be for the net to somehow keep the jumper from jumping again. Perhaps it will be extremely flexible and hard to get out of once occupied (i.e. tighter mesh, plastic coated cables, etc). Another problem will be with thrill seekers jumping into the nets for fun. This can unnecessarily tie up resources.</p> <p>I might also add, that by decreasing response time, increasing surveillance, by having more foot/bike patrols, dedicated individuals monitoring the bridge, and perhaps adding more emergency phones (linked to crisis management), one might decrease bridge related suicides by a small part.</p>
Jason	Ballesteros	<p>Overall, by employing the previous mentioned measures, along with either a Plexiglas barrier, a net, or some combination of both, we can work to curb suicides with a tool that doesn't ruin the aesthetics of a historically significant structure, and works to provide the best prevention possible for a troubled individual.</p>
charles	ballinger	<p>Your priorities should lie on preventing head-on collisions on this unsafe bridge. We have limited resources these days and we should protect those who don't wish to die. This is an ill-advised, wasteful project at best.</p>
Rosemary	Balmain	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge has become too glamorous and therefore too dangerous not to have a suicide barrier. After all, the Eiffel Tower has one, and the Empire State Building.</p>
brian	bane	<p>The number one consideration should be to make the bridge safer, to save lives. People will commit suicide anyway, it is true, but the bridge is a magnet for suicides.</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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		<p>I strongly feel that option 1b is the best option for the bridge. Here are my reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) As a normal pedestrian, I would feel safer having the original handrail there. It feels more secure, and my fear of heights would be appeased slightly. 2) Keeping the original handrail keeps the bridge as historically unchanged as possible. The bridge remains the most similar to the original plans. 3) When looking through the horizontal bars, you can see an entire view of the skyline. From the distance of the bridge, the skyline is very long horizontally and the buildings do not seem as tall, and so at any height (based on how tall you are) you can look through the closest two bars and see everything, not impeded by the vertical bars. 4) While the horizontal bars are easier to climb up, the wing at the top of the bars provides a deterrent to climbing over. 5) As a somewhat strong young woman, I could probably jump and launch myself over the vertical option because it does not have the wing at the top. It would take a lot of effort, but if I were determined, I could do it. Imagine someone stronger or taller than I -- and many people are. 6) From a tourist standpoint, the plexiglass option provides the opportunity to take clear pictures. But if you don't like that, you can even use the horizontal bars to steady your camera as you place it between the bars to take a picture. 	<p>120</p>
Nora	Barr	<p>While I chose two specific physical barrier alternatives, all are acceptable. They have negligible aesthetic impact and will save lives. The price is nominal in the context of lives it will save each and every year.</p>	
Allen	Barr	<p>Even as a person not at suicide risk, I will feel safer walking the bridge with barriers in place.</p>	
Sarah	Barr	<p>There are 8,666 people in Tiburon (according to the 2000 census-it's actually more now.) On Wednesday, August 20, 2008, the Tiburon Town Council voted on a resolution supporting your efforts to find a solution for stopping the suicides off the Golden Gate Bridge. I hope you will count all 8,666 people as in favor of a suicide barrier or some other means to finally stop the deaths. I have listed my personal favorites here.</p>	
Crystal	Barrett	<p>I am concerned as to how the net will provide adequate safety for the individual until emergency personnel can arrive at the scene? Or, will the net allow the individual yet another location in which to jump from? Additionally, how easily can emergency personnel access the person who has jumped to the net?</p>	

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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Michelle	Benvenuto	This is a historic structure. Any addition to the beautiful simplicity of the design is not in keeping with the original vision of this bridge.
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Michelle	Benvenuto	This is a historic structure. Any addition to the beautiful simplicity of the design is not in keeping with the original vision of this bridge.
Michelle	Benvenuto	My uncle jumped off the GGB and I STILL do not support this outrageous idea. Why are we spending money to address a problem that is not caused by the bridge? Why are we attempting to destroy this beautiful and historic structure because of an issue that is not her fault. People will continue to commit suicide and it has nothing to do with the bridge.
Michelle	Benvenuto	I am in favor of any of the 4 choices that support a physical barrier on the bridge. However, I am NOT in favor of a net system. I believe a net is not a strong enough deterrent, as people can still jump from the net, and can see the potential for problems with rescue efforts, pranks, etc.
Bettina Adam	Bepler Berger	Although I have not read the EIR/EA, I want to voice my general support for a suicide barrier for the bridge with the assumption that current suicide prevention programs will be continued as well. I trust the Board of Directors to choose the best design.
Christina	Berger	I am concerned about Alternative 3 as it was mentioned that birds may become caught up in the netting. For that reason I am strongly opposed to this option.
Christina	Berger	A recent article in the New York Times "The Urge to End it All" July 6, 2008, discusses impulsive suicide vs. premeditated suicide and the effectiveness of suicide barriers. It states, "Put simply, those methods that require forethought or exertion on the actors part (taking an overdose of pills, say, or cutting your wrists), and thus most strongly suggest premeditation, happen to be the methods with the least chance of success. Conversely, those methods that require the least effort or planning (shooting yourself, jumping from a precipice) happen to be the deadliest. The natural inference, then, is that the person who best fits the classic definition of being suicidal might actually be safer than one acting in the heat of the moment at least 40 times safer in the case of someone opting for an overdose of pills over shooting himself." I ask that this information be taken into consideration.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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Dr. Lanny	Berman	<p>From a public health perspective, lives will be saved by the construction of barriers that effectively thwart the use of the bridge from use by would be jumpers. There is considerable science supporting, and general consensus among scientists who have studied this issue, the fact that lives will be saved. Were I to promise that I could save 100% of those next 1300 jumpers from dying by jumping from this bridge and that 90% of these people would not otherwise go on to suicide, would that not be a compelling argument to do whatever is possible to make that happen? Those predictions can be supported by what we now know -- To do nothing is a proposal only supported by naive and callous disregard for human life.</p>
Shiva	Berman	<p>Substantial body of research over the last few decades has shown the following:</p> <p>GG bridge is the the most popular suicide magnet on the face of the planet.</p> <p>Those who chose to jump to their death do so in a moment of pure impulse (they do not have a plan B in place).</p> <p>Of the 29 who have survived the attempt only 1 has gone on to commit suicide later and many talk about how they were sorry they jumped an instant after having done so.</p> <p>A physical barrier is the only proven method to save lives 100% of the times.</p> <p>Shame on us for waiting so long to save countless lives and for choosing aesthetics over the lives of so many people.</p> <p>Shame on those in charge of the bridge who choose to ignore this, sitting other non effective methods already in use as an excuse, and cover up the number of lives lost each year in the hopes that if they don't talk about this, the problem will just go away!</p>
Brad	Berman, MD	<p>All available research suggests that a barrier will help reduce impulsive suicidal gestures, and that it will not in any way diminish the beauty of the bridge nor decrease it's tourist value.</p>
Tim	Bernard	<p>it seems irresponsible to me to aesthetically alter a historical cultural icon such as the GGB.</p>

1.2.2

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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First	Last	Comment
Yve	Betar	A visual barrier on the bridge would ruin the aesthetic beauty and quality of the experience for the more than 30 million visitors. I do not believe that the "No Action" alternative in the DEIR has been examined properly, if people want to kill themselves they will find a way.
Yve	Betar	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge. close family member attempted to jump and was stopped by a bridge painter. he went home and hung himself in the storage shed in the back yard. he was found by his wife. if someone is set on suicide, building a barrier and the bridge will not stop them. i am against pulling a ugly barrier on a national treasure. thank you
david	bettini	This beautiful bridge, a gateway to a magnificent city, is becoming a symbol of despair, a magnet for hopelessness. Please erect a barrier. Please.
Suzanne	Bettman	Any barrier will interfere with the beauty of this landmark!
ML	Beuchert	Employ a couple of people to patrol the bridge day and night.
Birte	Beuck	Suicide is often an acute crisis that can be reversed with appropriate help. NOT having a rail is the moral equivalent of handing a loaded gun to someone in acute emotional distress. Your "yes" to a suicide barrier will save lives. Thank you!
Gigi	Bibeault	As someone whose dad committed suicide, and as a friend to 3 others who did it, it will make ZERO DIFFERENCE in the rate of suicide! It will just make the GGB not the chosen place. It will not save lives. It will suck up a ton of money, and assuage consciences, but not to any decent end.
d m	bieneman	bridge suicides are a TINY portion of all suicides. leave the bridge alone...you can't protect people from themselves
Steve	Bilan	This is to inquire whether or not you're still soliciting ideas for a barrier. If it's still possible to submit one, please let me know and I will create a draft design to send to you. I can be reached at steve_bilan@comcast.net

1 2 3

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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Mark	Bluestein	<p>Alternative 1B is preferred over 1A because it would have less visual impact both from the bridge and looking at the bridge. Vertical rods would punctuate the view while driving across the bridge and would be more visible when looking at the bridge from the view points at each end of the bridge. Vertical rods also look more "jail-like." Alternatives 1A and 1B are preferable to Alternatives 2A and 2B because they preserve the existing handrail which is part of the historic design of the structure. Alternative 3 would have the least visual impact, but would not be very effective at preventing suicide, the purpose of the project.</p>
Alan	Blumenthal	<p>I don't think the No Action alternative has been properly analyzed and considered.</p>
Alan	Blumenthal	<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative already stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be further studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ... What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
Alan	Blumenthal	<p>The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are unacceptable.</p>
Gary	Boatman	<p>I am sorry that people choose to use the GG bridge as a jump off point. But in these hard times and with a huge lack of support I think these funds could be better spend designing a barrier to prevent head on collisions (of people who actually want to live). We cannot be all things to all people. This liberal left idea of a barrier is DCA and should be dropped. When will we learn that we have to allow people the freedom to make their own paths and choices???</p>
Hawkins	Bob	<p>leave it as is</p>
Austin	Bodek	<p>The ideas would aesthetically ruin the bridge.</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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Gary	Boswell	I am a long time user of the bridge. The special treat of walking across the bridge cannot be duplicated by moving it to the side. People who choose suicide as the only way out of their problems will still choose to end their life if the bridge is not available and their methods will be more messy and seen by more people.
charee	boulter	I like the concept of decreasing the appeal of jumping from the GGB and the options are visually attractive.
John	Bourne	The beautiful aesthetic design of the bridge should not be altered. The original engineers and designers would want future generations to enjoy the bridge as it is. Any alteration to the present design would seriously impact it's natural beauty in a detrimental way.
John	Bourne	Suicide is a result of mental illness or instability. Suicidal individuals will continue to take their own lives by using handguns, hanging themselves with a rope, ingesting lethal drugs or jumping off high buildings. The bridge directors should not be compelled to alter the bridge in any way because of the self destructive actions of a small group of unbalanced people. Maybe without this type of project, the board could also refrain from raising the bridge tolls every few years.
John	Bowen	The idea of spending so much money to prevent so few people from willfully doing themselves harm would be ridiculous at any time, but proposing to waste so much of the public's money in the current economic climate is beyond comprehension.
John	Bowen	The idea of spending so much money to prevent so few people from willfully doing themselves harm would be ridiculous at any time, but proposing to waste so much of the public's money in the current economic climate is beyond comprehension.
Jamie	Bowles	Do not change the bridge.
Malcolm	Bowles	I have grown up in San Francisco, and this would definitely ^{definitely} mar the beautiful bridge I have grown to know and love. Compared to many other methods of suicide readily available to the public, I fail to see the extraordinary dangers of this method which merit special consideration - especially when this consideration would have far-reaching consequences beyond the suicidal individual.
Philip Bryan	Bowles Boyce	The Alternatives 1 and 2 make it seem like you're in prison, not on the bridge. Hideous. I can't believe this money could not be put to better use, including improving the anti-suicide patrols.
Bryan	Boyce	I think the visual impact would be very negative for all of the proposed alternatives.
		I think the planned alternatives are not consistent with the vision of the architect nor with the cultural value of the Bridge.

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Bryan	Boyce	I think the proposed alternatives would diminish the recreational value of the bridge, and not be consistent with the land use that is intended for the bridge.
Bryan	Boyce	Given the amount of paint and gasoline needed by bridge workers to maintain the current structure, why create a larger debt to sustainability? It's more of an indirect impact.
Bryan	Boyce	Adequate.
MJ	Boyd	I think the 'net' system is not practice as it set up a system for people to throw objects --garbage and then someone has to maintain it...
		The board members need to fulfill their public trust responsibilities and immediately proceed with an option which they believe will stop the suicides. This is not a responsibility to be relegated to a public popularity contest. The architects have given you several designs that look perfectly appropriate for this amazing structure. MAKE A DECISION NOW and get it done on a fast track before more lives are needlessly lost due to continued indecision and bureaucratic hurdles. These are easily preventable deaths.
Patrick	Boyd	I think vertical lines will complement the appearance more than horizontal lines.
Katherine	Boyers	The money could be better spent elsewhere. If someone is intent on suicide, they will find a way.
Barbara	Boyle	A suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge MUST be built to protect and preserve human life -- the #1 responsibility of a humane, moral, compassionate, and socially conscious society. Options 1A and 2A have minimal impacts on aesthetics, cultural resources and recreation, which are truly insignificant when compared to the inestimable value of lives and communities that will be spared the tragic and terrible loss, suffering and devastation caused by easy access to lethal means of suicide. The SF Bay Area community has an undeniable responsibility NOW to follow through with building a suicide barrier, which will remove the adjectives "terrible" and "lethal" -- qualities that the visionary architects and builders never intended for the "beauty" that they created and that millions use and enjoy. To me, preventing suicides from the bridge, and the destruction of families and communities that follows, is truly enlightened historic preservation -- removing from the bridge what was never intended, yet what has become the darkest of shadows cast by it. We must strip "suicide magnet" from the description of the Golden Gate Bridge.
Joanie	Boyle	

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Kell	Brigan	Would birds nest more on Option #3 than they do on the bridge currently? If so, would this be a hardship for maintenance workers, or otherwise interfere with air flow or the effectiveness of the net?
Kell	Brigan	Congratulations on reaching this milestone! About Option #3: would it be possible for an especially fit person to climb to the edge of the net, and "complete" a suicide attempt? Also, isn't there a possibility that thrill-seekers (not suicidal, just dumb) might jump into the net just for kicks?
		(My second comment. Left some stuff out.)
		1) Re. #3 -- I wonder what impact the net might have on maintenance workers. Would they be safer, ultimately, or would having to move the net to get around add risk?
		2) Generally, please look at options for spreading the cost around. The Bridge is a State treasure, as well as San Francisco's, so it seems reasonable that the rest of us cough up something to help with expenses. Even though the State budget is probably unavailable, private donations could go a long way to help, should money be a concern. There are 35 some-odd million folks in California. Even if only 1 in 100 people feels strongly enough about this issue (show 'em Dr. Sieden's study, and they'll care), we should still be able to come up with some cash.
Kell	Brigan	I prefer 1A and 2A because the vertical lines of the barrier would echo in miniature the overall vertical lines of the suspensions cables. These seem to me to be the most visually elegant options. (I prefer 1A because it preserves the historic structure for future reference, and also allows the existing rail to be a "floor molding" for the new barrier. The contrast between the old and new features is more elegant and interesting than 2A.)
Kell	Brigan	I prefer option 1A because it would maintain the existing rail for historical reference. (I also think it's the best overall design.)
Kell	Brigan	The 6.5-inch span on the vertical or horizontal barrier bars should allow plenty of room for the photographers to get a shot "outside" the barrier.
Kell	Brigan	The visual impact of alternative 1A and 2A both fit into the design of the bridge the best.
Joanne	Briggs	It is vital to put a suicide barrier on the bridge as soon as possible. Too many lives are being lost at this bridge.
Joanne	Briggs	

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Victoria	Brubaker	<p>Suicide is a very sad and devastating experience for the affected families, friends and society at large. I have experienced it within my own family and can attest to the above. My opposition to the barrier system, however, has nothing to do with aesthetics, but with the money required to build such a system. If we are going to add additional cost burdens to commuters and local tax payers, the money should be spent on a movable barrier to protect drivers from head on collisions -- accidents where those involved have no plans to take their own lives or the lives of others. We already spend outrageous amounts of money in tolls, which continually rise each year, for a bridge that was supposed to be paid off years ago. With additional proposals for fare hikes to fix Doyle drive, I think it is fiscally irresponsible to spend tens of millions of dollars to prevent bridge suicides. Let's spend the 40-50 million dollars on preventing avoidable accidents, or fixing Doyle Drive first, and then if we have money left over, or taxpayers are still willing to pay more, then build the prevention system.</p>
Don allison	Brubeck bruce	<p>It is possible to conserve the historic features and aesthetic qualities of the bridge while adding a barrier to effectively reduce suicides. Such measures have a proven effect, and do not merely shift suicides to other locations.</p> <p>[I am involved as a community advisory committee member in a similar effort for the bridge with the next highest number of suicides in the US: Aurora Bridge, Seattle WA. With this comment I am speaking for myself, not for the committee or for WSDOT]</p>
PETER	BRUCE	<p>I am in favor of increasing police presence and cameras on the bridge.</p> <p>WHY KILL THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDGE JUST BECAUSE SOME ONE WANT TO KILL THEN SELF.</p>
PETER	BRUCE	<p>WHY KILL THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDGE JUST BECAUSE SOME ONE WANT TO KILL THEN SELF.</p> <p>AND MAKE THE TOLL GO UP !!!!!!!!</p>

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		<p>If people seriously want to commit suicide they will do it whether or not there is a barrier. they may do it someplace else but we the tax payers and general public should not be expected to pay up to 50 million dollars plus annual maintenance because 30 or so people a year choose the golden gate bridge to commit suicide.</p> <p>The golden gate bridge is both a national icon and large tourist attraction and altering could impact the number of tourists that come to see it. Which could then further raise the cost of a suicide barrier through lost tourism, bridge tolls, and sight seeing tours.</p> <p>Again if someone is truly serious about committing suicide they will do it.</p>
jodi	brust	
Louis	Bryan	All the alternatives negatively impact the aesthetics.
Louis	Bryan	The money proposed to be spent on the alternatives could be better used on virtually any other program.
Louis	Bryan	The main cause of deaths and injuries on the bridge is automobiles, not jumpers.
Ester	Bryant	Keeping with the historical engineering beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge and within financial reason barriers must be erected as a deterrent.
Ester	Bryant	We must structurally and legally do whatever it takes to stop suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge.
Maximilian	Buck	It is only human decency to value life before aesthetics. Suicide has widely tainted the symbol of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Alan HENRY	Burns BURTON	Barrier proponents merely comprise a small group of noisy and relentless activists who are a tiny minority of the populace. Don't build anything and continue the present course. PLEASE LEAVE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE ALONE IF PEOPLE WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE THEY WILL AND THEY MAY TAKE SOME INNOCENT PEOPLE WITH THEM.BY CAR-OR BY THE POLICE ETC.THIS WAY NO ONE BUT THEM GETS HURT.PUT THE FUNDS TOWARD DOLE DRIVE FIX. KEEPING THE WORLDS MOST B
		Sadly, ever since it was built, the Golden Gate Bridge has been a magnet for despairing people who have been driven to take their own lives. My own brother committed suicide four years ago, casting a sad shadow over me, my family, and our friends. The pain will be with us forever. I feel like I would do anything to get him back. Concurrently, I also have powerful feelings about the ongoing, everyday mental health and quality of life for those of us who are alive. The Golden Gate Bridge is a major contributor to that quality of life. The bridge has been an uplifting inspiration for the millions of people who have visited from afar, who have seen its stunning photos, or who experience it every day. There are very few human-made structures in the world that uplift us as much as this amazing span—one of the architectural wonders of the world. Beauty, humanity, and trust are all exquisitely expressed in its timeless and humane design. To fortify it with fencing and barriers only sends the message that we are living in a scary, mistrustful society, where individuals must be regulated, contained, and restrained. The bridge is a mighty symbol of freedom, splendor and the magnificence of human creativity. Please don't erode our communal sense of hope by fortifying it and adding it to an increasingly â€œmeanâ€ built environment. We need more symbols of liberty, joy, and optimism bolstering our spirits and encouraging us to love life.
Shirl	Buss	Thank you, Shirl Buss I do not think the net is a good idea because it will change the appearance of the bridge more than it needs to be changed. Making the existing railing taller or replacing it all together are both great options.
Danielle Mary	Butler Butler	Having the wingleet at the top is important, I think. A barrier will save lives. I have seen someone attempt to jump from a bridge and it was horrifying.
Mary	Butler	I don't believe it is appropriate to build a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge is a classic historic structure that should not be altered. \$50,000,000 can be applied in 50,000,000 better ways. You can't stop people who want to kill themselves from committing suicide.
Sandy	Butler	

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EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will make the wind speed and direction more unpredictable, endangering the lives and health of bicyclists.
EM	Byrne	All of the Alternatives that include large "transparent" panels will make the wind speed and direction more unpredictable, endangering the lives of bicyclists.
EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will be a danger to birds. Money wasted on adding ineffective barriers to the bridge could be better spent on preserving biological resources in California.
EM	Byrne	The nets could entangle birds. Alternatives with "transparent" panels are dangerous to birds that will fly into them at high speeds.
EM	Byrne	All of the Alternatives will highlight the fact that mental-health care in America is execrable. Tourists from all over the world will wonder why so much money was spent to desecrate a national monument instead of paying for mental-health care for ill Am
EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will not be transparent at all, due to dirt, fog, and wear.
EM	Byrne	All Alternatives will waste money to desecrate an historic landmark, at the expense of other cultural resources that could make better use of the money.
EM	Byrne	All of the alternatives are a disgraceful waste of money that would be better spent on mental-health care for patients. Where is the part of the report that compares the lives that would be saved by using the money to fund mental-health care for suicidal or depressed patients instead of wasting it on the bridge? None of the Alternatives would make the bridge suicide proof. How many fatal bicycle accidents will be caused by the effect of "transparent" panels on winds rushing and swirling across the bridge? Biological Impacts of the "transparent" panels and nets on flying birds were not resolved.

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Patrick	Callahan	<p>Whether a suicide barrier is needed and desirable should not be the subject of serious debate. Clearly, an effective barrier will save lives and the savings to society in general, in terms of both financial and emotional costs are immeasurable. Alternative 2B offers the least obstruction of the views of and from the bridge. One's line of sight is but minimally interfered with using horizontal cables from deck to top and allows viewing from any height -from child's eye-view to the tallest person's eye-view.</p> <p>If a barrier is installed it will become a part of the "landscape" in almost no time and will cease to be considered a visual obstruction, while saving the lives of countless persons - because it is not only the jumper who's life is lost in a jump from the bridge - ask any friend or family member who has lost someone to suicide.</p>
James	Callanan	<p>I think that 1A is as beautiful as it stands right now but it will be socially responsible which makes it more beautiful.</p>
Colleen	Camp	<p>I like keeping the current handrail as it keeps the historic design. I feel it is imperative to have a barrier. I have nearly jumped off the bridge myself years ago (more than once) but luckily didn't. I think a barrier will definitely decrease suicides as shown by the numerous studies from other venues where barriers etc., have been installed. If the compelling object is removed, then the suicidal impulse may go away.</p>
arlene	campbell	<p>niya ,a jump the bridge and live campaign should be an alternative bungee jump the bridge and live, a professional company can be hired for people who want to jump and they will live to tell there adventure people would pay u ultra megabucks to jump and of course they will live through the journey, i am serious about this my kids dad has been on hi-rises all his life and my dad is a paratrooper he did 98 paratrooper jumps and was shot down, when a person is up hi on golden gate bridge it is the equivalent of a huge skyscraper so of course when u look down vertigo sets in ,the pull of gravity overpowers u, so u get this feeling of jumping ,flying soaring because of the gravitational pull u could also have those people who glide people could have hangglider tours off the bridge,bungee jumping is a good answer to solve the suicide problem and barrier problem. (instead of sadness they will have a thrill of a lifetime!)</p> <p>Also include an cement expiration date ,the government would give the bridge people lots of money to replace the cement on the bridge while it is standing,do preventative maintenance work, because it has an expiration date i think cement starts disintegrating into powder after a hundred years, there are rumors that architects use cement that disintegrates in twenty to thirty years so some of the hi-rises will be turning to powder after a certain amount of years. rolypoly77@yahoo.com,my name is arlene campbell of village voice tv, channel 29 access tv, wild garden film/video,please stop the barrier the bridge is just fine and u are doing a good job keeping it going,please look into providing bungee jumping the bridge and live project and jump on the expiration date on cement project so u can start replacing some of the cement in preventative maintenance projects and make sure u get good quality cement so it doesnt disintegrate and turn into powder the bridge more than likely doesnt even need cement preventative maintenance.thank u ,arlene campbell,1388 haight st#8,sf,ca 94117</p>

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Van	Carney	Fewer than 1250 people have committed suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge in the 71 years it has been open to the public. The very idea that the scenic view should forever be taken away and the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year should instead be
DARRYL	CARR	HAVING READ YOUR ARTICLE IN THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL ON 07-22-2008, I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST AS I USED TO LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO MANY YEARS AGO. AN INEXPENSIVE, BUT WORKABLE SOLUTION, IS TO ERECT AN ELECTRIFIED BARRIER WHICH WOULD "ZAP" PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM CLIMBING TO THEIR POINT OF JUMP. FARMERS USE THIS METHOD TO KEEP THEIR CATTLE IN ENCLOSED PASTURES. YOU HAVE TO CONSULT AN ELECTRICIAN AND USE THE PROPER VOLTS AND OHMS TO PREVENT DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WOULD USE 220 VOLTS AND NOT 110 VOLTS AS THE 110 WOULD NOT KNOCK YOU AWAY AS THE 220 WOULD, THEREBY ELECTROCUTING YOU.
Pamela	Carr	I don't believe it is the district's duty to dissuade jumper's. The view should ABSOLUTELY NOT be obstructed. If the district is to install any barrier it should be on top of the bridge between lanes to stop head-on accidents.
Pamela	Carr	If the district is ABSOLUTELY committed to constructing something to prevent suicide, the only thing I would condon is the net system.
		I had a cousin that committed suicide by jumping from the bridge. I believe this was before call boxes were placed upon the span. I support the horizontal net system as an alternative to a suicide barrier. I do not believe the barrier would deter most people from their goal, and I think the money would be better spent on safety issues around Doyle 'Dead Man's' Drive, and across the span for those of us that commute and want to cross into S.F. and Marin safely.
		I believe the proposed barrier is misguided, unattractive and financially infeasible.
Raquel	Carrillo	The GG Bridge is a historical icon. The beauty and design should not be altered or changed in anyway to accommodate a tiny minority. As sad as suicide is, surely we can come up with a better solution than altering the bridge.
diane	carroll	Have you considered closing off the bridge to all pedestrians? To all bicyclists? Why are you spending \$2M on a study that has no funding for change to begin with? The majority of the people in the Bay Area do not want the bridge altered. Are we still not a country ruled by the majority?
diane	carroll	

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<p>Monica</p>	<p>Cassani</p>	<p>I think most people can find other ways to die...there are not shortage of appropriate buildings in the area to jump from...</p> <p>The bridge is a beautiful historical piece of archetecture and art.</p> <p>I love it.</p> <p>By the way, I'm from SF and the Bay Area...I do not live there anymore...I don't know if my opinion carries weight or not...</p>
<p>Christina</p>	<p>Castaneda</p>	<p>The "No Build" 'Alternative' should be STRICKEN. This is NOT an alternative. We have a responsibility to make our buildings, structures, bridges, and roadways safe. Do we allow people to walk on highways? NO! Because it's not safe. This makes perfect sense. Furthermore, the current rail does not meet current building codes. This makes the bridge district liable for legal action from any family that has suffered a loss.</p> <p>Alternative 3 is interesting, but there are various concerns that make me think it is an inferior option.</p> <p>-There is not inclusion of an alarm or alert if someone were to jump into the net.</p> <p>-There is no consideration listed about how difficult it would be for a person to jump into the net and then climb to the edge and jump.</p> <p>These considerations make me wonder how effective the net could really be.</p>

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Sally	Cerreita, LMFT	As the Clinical Director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention I believe as a community we must protect individuals that are lost in hopelessness from the GGB's easy access. I have facilitated support groups for friends and family of someone that has suicided for fifteen years. Often when someone jumps from the bridge the family reports their loved one showed no warning signs. This validates for me that the bridge is an impulsive means for suicide. Take a good look at the studies!
Craig	Cervenka	Please add protection to the bridge to stop this national icon from its spotlight of suicides. It will not in any way change its overall appearance. Alternative 1A would visually be more interesting, adding on to what has been there historically. Also, they vertical bars do not have to be as close together as alternative 2A. Horizontal rails will only invite someone to climb. A Net alternative looks like a future maintenance nightmare.
Gloria	Cevallos	Since the loss of my only child on the bridge December 28, 2006, in honor of my son, I am devoting my life to preventing suicide and consoling the families and friends of suicide victims. Yet, in just one vote, each of you directors, has the opportunity to save at least 30-40 physical lives a year and the many emotional lives of those devastated by the loss. The evidence is clear and well documented that putting up a barrier will save lives. You have a civic, ethical, moral, and social obligation to open your mind to the evidence and vote to put up a barrier. For every 10 days you wait, another life is lost and another family is devastated. How can you afford to wait any longer?
Gloria	Cevallos	Minimal visual/aesthetic impact, elegant,easy to accept.
Mauricio	Cevallos	

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Mauricio	Cevallos	Impulse and ease are a deadly combination and the GGB Transportation Authority has an opportunity to help reduce the devastation to families and community by reducing the ease and allure of the current Bridge Rail structure.
Mark	Chaffee	I urge you to follow through and put an end to this bridge's horrific legacy as the number one suicide magnet. The people in the Bay area deserve better, and the bridge deserves better.
John	Champlin	It looks terrible, and destroys the enjoyment of the bridge for the majority of us, who see it as one more great reason to go on living.
John	Champlin	Tear the damn bridge down and go back to ferries if you want to deface it this way.
John	Champlin	It sucks.
		A physical barrier would scar the aesthetic beauty of the bridge and ruin views for pedestrians and car passengers. Would make suicide attempts harder but not impossible and would only shift people bent on committing suicide to another location or method. Thus benefit of a barrier would be minimal and does not justify expense and ruining views and aesthetics.
Ronald	Chan	DON'T BUILD A BARRIER!! The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one.
Ronald	Chan	spend \$ on programs to help prevent suicide attempts.
		I think after spending millions-you will find people will look for another place to commit suicide.
Chris	Chandler	Please, please, please. I just ask that you do something that makes it harder for people to jump off the bridge. Please do something. Anything.
Rob	Chandra	I believe there are ways to make an impact on depression and suicidal urges without defacing a national treasure.
Carol	Chapman	Leave this national treasure of a cultural icon as it is. Strengthen suicide prevention through other venues. That's my strongly held opinion and I'm stating it as often as possible.
Carol	Chapman	I don't think it's fair for tax payers to pay to keep people from intentionally hurting themselves.
Lya	Chapman	Just pick the best alternative. The important thing is to act to save lives.
Sam	Chapman	

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Susan	Chapman	We will get used to it. Other suicide landmarks have implemented barriers. How can we not implement one of these. The net sounds sort of scary to imagine people hanging there in the net. But any approach that saves lives is ok with me.
Susan	Chapman	There is no mental health system in SF that adequately prevents the impulsive suicide jumper. At present our mental health system is underfunded and many mentally ill lack access, insurance, and a source of care. Public health prevention generally never show cost effectiveness and is expensive in the number of lives saved. But that is true for all preventive services. How can we not do something to save even a relatively small number of lives when we know it will save their lives and there is no alternative that will ever be equally effective?
Jake	Chapnick	Specifically regarding the steel net idea, I had the idea of a net that was soft, more like a trapeze artist uses for safety. This metal thingomabob is going to cheese grate people when they hit it. I mean, it won't literally grate their body into pieces, but it is liable to break their arms, legs, backs, and necks. Then they could sue the city.
Jake	Chapnick	Also, if you put up a metal net, there will be plenty of jackasses who try to jump onto it or perform stunts for kicks. Please, this is really a dangerous idea, it is not a good solution for deterring suicide. It only escalates the publics' derangement from this ongoing battle.
Date	Chappell	With no build it will be as is.
Date	Chappell	Too damn expensive.
Otis	Charles	2B seems most harmonious with the natural beauty of the bay and surrounding hills. In fact it seems to be an improvement over the present handrail which block views.
Otis	Charles	Elimination of the possibility of suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge has been too long in resolution. We enhance the Golden Gate Bridge as a symbol of hope by rendering impotent its fatal attraction for those drawn to suicide.
Robert	Chase	The bridge is a cultural icon recognized around the world. Nothing should be done to the bridge.
Kelly	Chatwood	This is an important step to deterring individuals who are at risk for suicide. A commendable effort has been made here to keep the integrity of the existing structure and aesthetics. Job well done, I look forward to seeing the completed system.

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		<p>In the short 28 years I have been on this earth, two people very close to me have jumped the bridge.</p> <p>The first was a close family friend, she was like an aunt to me. She survived the jumped only to be fished out to live on life support for an undoubtedly excruciating 48 hours.</p> <p>I only learned that her suicide attempt didn't kill her on impact when discussing the more recent suicide of my friend with my sister.</p> <p>I shudder to think of what happened after he jumped, knowing that he did so at the height of white shark feeding in that region of the bay.</p> <p>He jumped at night, a time when you have to be allowed in and are on video doing so- what is the purpose of this type of entrance? Who is making sure patrons of the bridge exit?</p> <p>The bridge ceased being a place of peace and beauty for myself (and others) long ago. It is not a place desire to visit nor do I take visitors to the bay area there.</p> <p>No one can change the past, but I would be very happy to know that in the future the bridge could garner only positive attributes and leave the negative ones in our memories.</p>
lisa	chavez	A suicide barrier would ruin the design aesthetics of the bridge and would be a waste of money. I strongly believe nothing should be done. It has already been a waste of money to commission the study in the first place.
Robert	Chee	The Secretary of the interior's Standards for modifying a National Historic Landmark structure would seem to point to Alternative 1A as the first preference, in that it makes the smallest change in the historic structure. Alternative 2A makes the next smallest change, in that it maintains the historic verticality of the barrier.
Robert	Cherry	

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		<p>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for modifying a historic structure clearly permit modifications for the purpose of public safety. Thus, any of the alternatives that actually prevent suicides would seem to be acceptable, though some are more preferable.</p> <p>Given the information presented, Alternative 3 is not obviously likely to be as effective as any of the other alternatives. Could not a person jump first into the net, and then climb over the side?</p> <p>Finally, regardless of which alternative is chosen, it is important to build a barrier. The significant preponderance of scholarly studies of suicide indicate that some proportion of suicides are acting on a sudden impulse, and that removing the opportunity to act on the impulse may well prevent that person from committing suicide ever.</p> <p>A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency established the current value of a human life at \$6.9 million (SF Chronicle, July 11). At that price on human life, it requires only a little arithmetic to determine that building a barrier would become cost-effective after deterring only a relatively small number of people from committing suicide.</p>
Robert	Cherry	<p>The vertical options are the closest to the current railing and therefore represent the least visual change. Further, the horizontal options strike me as potentially being able to be used as a ladder; and the net option, as noted in the Chronicle, would take hours to rescue people from, during which time (a) a big gathering would surely accumulate on the walkway above and (b) the person can climb out an jump. Plus, the net is ugly.</p>
Sarah	Cherry	<p>Only build the net system if it is not visible from the sidewalk on the bridge.</p>
Ed	Cherry	<p>I'm sorry people choose to kill themselves, but that doesn't mean we should ruin a world-renowned historical icon. Even if we do ruin the bridge, those folks will find some place else to kill themselves.</p>
Ed	Cherry	<p>What ever barrier is deemed most effective to preventing easy suicides and is most cost effective and quick to implement should be chosen.</p>
Jane	Chesson	<p>We need to stop deaths now.</p>
Jane	Chesson	

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Tristan	Christianson	As with any deterrent, if a person wants to badly enough they will find a way around it. This may serve in stopping or slowing some, but other more "eyes on" methods should be utilized and/or better utilized for the bridge and its security.
Tristan	Christianson	As I understand it this "barrier" is only for the east facing side, so this only solves half the issue and as noted if someone wants to badly enough they will find a way and no amount of money will be worth the expenditure if this proves out that someone can still get past it.
Maria Corey	Christman Christopher	I was a lifetime Californian until the USAF took me away and I retired in Texas with my husband. The Golden Gate is an emotional symbol, but "means restriction" is more important. Please, save lives.
Corey	Christopher	Construction of ANY barrier will negatively impair the aesthetics of the Bridge.
Corey	Christopher	The existing handrail should remain as it is a beautiful and historic part of the original structure.
Corey	Christopher	Visitors are currently able to look over the handrail down onto the water, this unique feature of the bridge should be maintained.
Corey	Christopher	none

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Paul christy	Clark clark	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
mary	clark	Nothing should be done. This is ridiculous. What about personal responsibility. The govt should not have to protect everyone in this manner. an architectural icon such as this should not be altered. who knows what sort of impact it will on the structure and to say the least the looks. people come from all around the world to visit this beautiful bridge, that marries so well between the dramatic nature and the amazing architecture. this should remain in tact and a solution should be found that does not alter this.
mary	clark	this amount of money could be used in ways that would decrease the suicide rate but still keep the beauty in tact. it is the job of the committee to do so! i know someone who has committed suicide off of the golden gate bridge. if it had not been the bridge he would have done it another way...
Paul Philip	Clark Clark	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge. Good luck. I can't understand why this wouldn't be done. We have the resources and now we need to make this a priority. The bridge is too accessible to people at risk. It is our responsibility to fix this suicide platform in our back yard.
Ann James James	Clifford Clifford Clifford	Fix it now in the most effective and financially cost effective manner. We must prevent suicides!

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		<p>I visited San Francisco in Sep last year (07) from Melbourne, Australia and thought your city was fantastic!</p> <p>The one thing I was appalled at however was the amount of homeless people.</p> <p>Would you not be better off using the 50 odd million assisting your vast homeless population?</p> <p>Sadly at the end of the day there will always be people who wish to end their lives and they will do so one way or another.</p> <p>So my comment is why spend so much of your tax payers money on the bridge suicide program when there is other situations in your city which are so much more in dire need of support?</p>
Nicholas	Cole	Let people jump if they want to. They are going to die someday anyway. Suicide is just a choice.
Steve	Cole	Let people jump if they want to. They are going to die someday anyway. Suicide is just a choice.
Steve	Cole	Please put ANY kind of barrier -- aesthetics are secondary to saving lives!
T	Collier	no build for the aesthetic/historical value of the bridge. Alternative 3 seems the least visually intrusive if a system will be implemented.
Jamie Abram	Collins Conant	The bridge would be more aesthetically pleasing if there were something more substantial than small plastic tubes between me and traffic traveling in the opposite direction. The plastic tubes are an eyesore and a disgrace.

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Kaye	Cowen	I have not heard credible evidence that a barrier will prevent suicides. While it will likely decrease the number of suicides on the golden gate, is there any evidence that it will impact the overall rate of suicides in the area? If not, then alternative measures should be considered.
Chuck	Cox	Do not destroy the integrity of the historic bridge. If someone chooses suicide, it is their life and their choice to do so. The bridges beauty is for all to enjoy. E
		<p>Just because there is a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge does not mean that suicides have been prevented-- only this one bridge as a conceptual means of doing so.</p> <p>Additionally, to constrict the view from, or the aesthetic view of, the world's most famous bridge for such an ambiguous result is not a price the world public should have to endure.</p> <p>If we want to use tax payer's money to save lives, give it to dying children, those whose lives may be saved with medical help their families cannot afford.</p> <p>E.D. San Francisco</p> <p>(Do not publish my name).</p>
E.D.		

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Penni	Cremen	I feel that a horizontal system would best allow for the visual/aesthetic values of the bridge while providing the safety needed. Vertical rails would not allow for the same visual/viewing aspects.
Julie	Criscenti Heck	I am in support of building and funding a suicide deterrent on the bridge. If it saves lives by making it less easy to commit suicide especially for impulsive teenagers than I think it is worth it even it impacts the aesthetics of the bridge.
Jessica	Crivello	For all the reasons listed above, we should leave the bridge as is.
Lorrie	Crivello	This is INSANE. \$2million already spent to study the suicide barrier. And, another \$40-50 million for the net. Please don't spend money on this. These dollars could be so much better spent. Another case of governmental agencies frittering away dollars without regard to the cost to the public.
Ian	Crockett	Any suicide barrier will deface this wonderful historic structure. People will find a way to committ suicide! If you do this to every bridge in the world, it will not deter anyone to find another way to end their life.
		There are cliffs,buildings, road abutments, etc.
		DO NOT ALTER THE BEAUTY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, PLEASE!!
		I was born in San Francisco in 1938 and raised there. I do not want to see this beautiful landmark scarred!
		Thank you
Bob	Crockford	

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William	Cuevas	Any alteration of the original intent of the architect(s) of such a cultural icon is blasphemous. The bridge is world-wide renowned. I believe that if public comment included the entire world there would be no debate, no question that the bridge should be LEFT ALONE AS IS!	146
William	Cuevas	Again, this is a global cultural icon. Raising the rails significantly alters the bridge as does the netting concept. Visitors from out of state or other countries would be appalled to see such ridiculousness of netting, raised rails, or filthy glass "viewing" stations.	147
William	Cuevas	I enjoy riding my bicycle across the bridge every weekend. Any "suicide barrier" would be an unfortunate reminder of suicide and of society constantly looking out for "my best interest". Ironically, I have a history of depression and have considered suicide. My weekly rides across the bridge bring me UNRIVALED HAPPINESS, something i look forward to every week. I ride the Caltrain to work during the week. I think jumping in front the train would be a quicker easier mode of suicide. Please!!	
William	Cuevas	I enjoy riding my bicycle across the bridge every weekend. Raising the handrails would obstruct my joyous views. The garbage strewn filthy netting or vandalized viewing glass would be a constant reminder of suicide and of society constantly looking out for "my best interest". Ironically, I have a history of depression and have considered suicide. My weekly rides across the bridge bring me UNRIVALED HAPPINESS, something i look forward to every week. I ride the Caltrain to work during the week. I think jumping in front the train would be a quicker easier mode of suicide. Please!!	
William	Cuevas	These alterations of the bridge would surely have a NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF HUMANS trying to enjoy the most beautiful bridge in the world! A constant reminder of suicide would make experiencing the bridge a study in depression and one of the darkest sides of the human psyche and would probably lead to more suicides.	

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R	Cummings	<p>I only truly support the no-build alternative. Option 3 is the least offensive of the other options. The bridge is a cultural and historic symbol in the US and the impacts of erecting any of the options but the no-build far outweigh the benefits of plan that only lowers the suicide rate on the bridge.</p> <p>As someone who attempted suicide, but never considered using the bridge to do it, I do not like changing the bridge and people's ability to enjoy it because of what seemingly is a kneejerk reaction to a documentary film featuring suicides on the bridge, while ignoring other common methods of suicide (such as train tracks, which seem to be a regular target of those wishing to commit suicide).</p> <p>I would prefer money be used in other ways, including suicide prevention in the area, as well as increasing suicide patrols on the bridge, because the best way in my experience to stop a suicide is to have a person reach out to them, not to make them feel caged in any more than they already do.</p> <p>Change is inevitable in life. In time, the new design would be as revered as the current one. Life should be our most precious resource. I cannot imagine a more traumatic and disturbing image than that of someone leaping from the Bridge.</p> <p>Let's hire full time counselors to patrol the bridge. It's cheaper, provides employment, and saves the look of the bridge.</p> <p>The millions of dollars that would be devoted to building and implementing a barrier as a reactionary method of preempting suicide deaths is a gross misuse of funds. Instead, this money should be directed towards preventative measures, helping those in desperate need before their desperation climaxes in such a tragic fashion. Efforts to educate the public and aid troubled individuals would be much more effective in preventing suicides of all kinds, not just those who jump from the bridge. It would also prevent the possibility of those who are barred from jumping due a barrier using other means to end their lives.</p>
Kevin	Cunningham	
Kita	Curry	
Jim	Curtis	
Sarah	Curtis	

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<p>Peter Barbara</p>	<p>Curzon Cutshaw</p>	<p>There were hundreds of thousands of people who walked/ran/biked across the bridge last year who didn't jump off it. They will all be unfairly penalized by a physical barrier. Part of the treasure of the world's most beautiful bridge is its open aired freedom. All barriers proposed so far (net excluded) destroy the aesthetics of the bridge, and make it as inviting as a concentration camp. I believe that the millions that might be spent on a physical barrier are far better spent on round-the-clock patrols by trained suicide prevention personnel. The two dozen people who need help each year will never learn that it exists if all they see is a fence. But they will if there's someone to talk to.</p>
<p>Kim</p>	<p>Cyr</p>	<p>50 million dollars--are you crazy! No funds should be spent to deter suicide at the bridge at all!! Persons hoping to commit suicide will find a way if they are determined enough. If you waste money on this bridge project, suicide will increase in other venues-at the BART, in traffic accidents,drownings,at other bridges,etc, etc. -you really can't prevent any deaths at all, in the long run,by altering the bridge. Please stop wasting money on committees and drafts!</p>
<p>Kim</p>	<p>Cyr</p>	<p>The bridge is an historic landmark, whether or not it is labeled by lawmakers in DC. In our hearts it is more historic than the Presidio. It is one of the most beautiful sights in the man-made world. Therefore I cannot imagine removing the handrail, or adding more steel higher up so it looks like a bars in a prison.</p>
<p>Kim</p>	<p>Cyr</p>	<p>Removing handrail and replacing it. or heightening it: in so doing we forever destroy one of the most lovely things about the bridge, it's low handrail. I love this aspect of the bridge. I love to stand at it, and feel the sea beneath, the winds blowing in from the open ocean. I would say for me, these are deterrents to suicide--I feel empowered and want to live life to its fullest when I feel this power of nature on the Golden Gate Bridge. It gives me the sense I can accomplish anything. It makes me laugh and smile and I look around and see countless others uplifted as well. What a gift! I have an uncle who climbed it and hung a flag, and my grandfather was one of its builders. I have a photo of him at the top of it, fearless and smiling. Everything is so safe these days that it's boring and lifeless. How regretful if this wonderful low handrail, which gives us access to incredible energy and beauty, were to be taken from the millions of the people who find such beauty and grace while standing at it.</p>

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Kim	Cyr	I am sorry to say, but this study seems like a grand waste of taxpayers' money. I think money could be better spent on foot patrol of the bridge for that teeny tiny static who decides to jump. Or why not spend it on gun limits? According to Suicide.org "over 90 percent of people who die by suicide have a mental illness at the time of their death. And the most common mental illness is depression." Do we really want to construct an environment to cater to a very small minority of people with depression who decide to jump off a bridge? Do the millions of people who love the bridge have to give up a thing of great, historic beauty, to save the lives of 20 people a year?
Peggy	da Silva	I do not think there should be any more fencing that detracts from the enjoyment of people walking and bicycling on the bridge and being able to see the water, boats, skyline, etc.
Peggy	da Silva	Do not place any barrier that blocks views.
Peggy	da Silva	The view from the bridge for walkers and bicyclists is invaluable. Do not obstruct it.
Marie	Dachauer	I think it's a shame to alter the Golden Gate Bridge...it's a beautiful structure, known world-wide.
Marie	Dachauer	I think the net is best because it is the least noticeable. The other alternatives are unattractive. But if you had to, vertical would be better than horizontal, because someone would just climb up the horizontal rods.
Marie	Dachauer	It seems that a net is the least restrictive to the use and recreation offered by the bridge.
Diane	Dagan	Please don't spoil the bridge. Misfits drift out to the coasts and always have - then they hit the end. Let them jump into the water rather than onto people from high buildings. And let's not direct them to the Bay Bridge where a jumper could hold up traffic for hours. Thanks
gemma	daggatt	this needs to be done!
Nicole	Daigle	Statistics show that deterred jumpers do NOT move to another location. This will lower the number of suicides.
Nicole	Daigle	i dont like the transparent windows either, they will be broken, flown into, get dirty...just a bad idea
Nicole	Daigle	The other options, besides alternative 3 obstruct the view of the city, which could possibly make the bridge less popular and draw tourists away, which in our horrible economy, would be a really bad idea.

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Daniel	Daneshrad	I write merely to comment on my belief that any addition will also have the added benefit of more protection from accidental falls. I have ridden across the bridge on a bicycle, and felt very nervous during the ride as on my bike I was quite high relative to the handrail. Although I fortunately stayed safe enough to make it across, I do not feel comfortable riding across again because I felt the handrail was too low relative to my height on my bicycle.
James	Daniel	any such proposal would destroy the bridge's aesthetics. This is absolutely the dumbest idea you have ever considered. Never mind you don't have the money and are raising tolls. Better & cheaper idea is to offer a million dollars to anybody contemplating suicide if they will reconsider!!
Chad	Daniels	The bridge is an architectural masterpiece. Please do nothing. All other alternatives would run foul of its aesthetic integrity and historic importance.
Chad	Daniels	There are about 40 million better ways to spend the money.
Susan	Daniloff	I am seriously concerned about the impact on birds with any of the Build options. I am also dismayed about changes to the historical structure of the bridge. I feel that the current methods in place to deter suicide attempts should be continued.
Daniel	Daniloff	I am of the opinion that the bridge should remain as it is period. I am taken by the fact that the bridge is suffering from apparent deferred maintenance with rust eating through the towers as well as the main cable. I can only imagine the condition of those surfaces we cannot easily see. Perhaps it is time to dissolve the political organisation called The Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District. The bridge has been under seige since "Transortation" was added to the districts tasks.....robbing peter to pay paul. The bus and ferry systems have never paid for themselves, but rather have taken monies from a formerly financially solid enterprise.

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Christian	Davidson	I think if people want to commit suicide then they should have that right, as stupid as they might be. Why take away the beauty of the GGB with suicide deterrent systems when people are just going to find ways around them anyway?
Laurie	Davidson	I am a former San Francisco resident, a lover of the bridge, so I understand the aesthetic and historical concerns. At the same time, if something can be done to save lives there, it should be done.
Leslie	Davidson	as much as I love the design of the GG bridge if a barrier saves even one life it is worth it.
Darren	Davis	Dear Board I strongly oppose the building of a barrier on one of the most globally recognized treasures of our country, The Golden Gate Bridge. While my heart goes out to the families of those who have taken their lives by jumping off the GGB, we must stop becoming a "Nanny State". These families are looking to place the responsibility of an individual who has attempted to commit/committed suicide on someone else other than the individual and the family themselves. We as people must stop acting as "babysitters" for individuals who are acting irrationally, and reaching out for help. Families always say "they just didn't know" or "had no idea". While this is tragic, it does not transfer the responsibility to the state. If these troubled individuals have decided to kill themselves, a barrier will only stop them from "jumping". They may decide instead to jump off a building, shoot themselves or park their SUV on a commuter train track. For some people who have the desire to commit such a desperate, final act in ones life is a spontaneous decision. However, getting to the GGB is not a "spontaneous" task. One must drive and/or walk out to jump. Therefore, they have thought about jumping. I feel the money that would be spent on the barrier would be better spent by funding suicide prevention programs, better medical treatment and education for those that seek help. Regards, Darren Davis Marin Resident Dially Golden Gate Transit Rider
Darren	Davis	I feel the money that would be spent on the barrier would be better spent by funding suicide prevention programs, better medical treatment and education for those that seek help.
Ellyn	Davis	I have a friend who jumped from the bridge following post-partum depression. Her young daughter is now being raised by her father. If there was a barrier, she would still be alive to watch her daughter grow up and provide the child with a mother.

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John	Deckert	A majestic view and exhilarating experience of the Bay Area for EVERYONE will be destroyed because of the actions of a few troubled individuals. Will you also put a fence blocking the view to the Grand Canyon? Will you also cover the first 5 meters of Old Faithful?
John	Deckert	You've installed blinders on your eyes so now you can install a fence on the bridge.
Decline	Decline	None are acceptable. All would turn the currently enjoyable activity of crossing the bridge as a pedestrian into a prison like experience.
Decline	Decline	The proposed budget for this project should go to increased monitoring of the bridge. The fact that the bridge has become a popular spot for people to commit suicide shouldn't mean that the bridge needs to be gated in, preventing the currently enjoyable trip across the bridge from continuing into the future.
		Gentlemen: The public is not responsible for the death of individuals who choose to take their own lives - regardless of where or how they choose to do it. Second, the beauty and design of the Bridge should not be changed. All designs will have an affect on the Structural Integrity of the Bridge. Third, the need for a Traffic Barrier is of MUCH HIGHER importance than a suicide barrier - and the cost of a suicide barrier could be better put to use for more people/commuters who use the Bridge everyday to get to and from work. Raising the tolls, and EVEN considering a suicide barrier makes little business sense - this is an emotional outcry from a few .
margaret	deedy	Have more foot patrols.
Peggy	Deghi	If someone wants to kill them self they will do it somewhere else. You can't suicide protect everything or you might as well put everyone in jail.
Peggy	Deghi	The proposed designs would inflict too heavy a toll on a beautiful historic landmark.
R	DelaRosa	Please use the \$25-50 million proposed costs for enhanced foot patrols on the bridge and increased mental health services for suicidal people rather than creating an unsightly landmark in the Bay Area.
R	DelaRosa	This bridge is a symbol of our City. It is a beautiful tourist attraction, but it means more than just that. Suicide is terrible, yes, but a barrier is a band-aid fix that will end up costing us millions. People bent on suicide will find other ways.
Kitty	Delgado	Public funds should not be spent on this matter absent a showing that the cost over the life of the project is less than the cost for public safety to respond to a jumper.
alan	dellarlio	

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	NO. No no no and no.	Comment
Mitchell		<p>Destroying the visual and cultural aesthetic of one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world is a bad idea.</p> <p>1) The proposed barriers will not deter the people they are designed to save. People with no hope and who are determined to commit suicide will find some other, less visible way. The argument that these human cattle-rails will provide a deterrent is sheer folly.</p> <p>2) Not cost-effective. 50 million in undetermined funds is an extravagant allocation, and again, will not solve the problem.</p> <p>3) Uglifying the bridge and preventing average bridge-goers from taking in a world-class view will reduce the quality of many thousands, no hundreds of thousands, of lives than the very small numbers the barriers are designed for. The argument that any amount of money is justified by the saving of even one human life is again, sheer folly.</p> <p>4) Building a barrier is unpopular. Again and again, a very vocal minority is driving this initiative. The numbers show that the majority of people do not want a barrier. Period. Again, the ends do not justify the means.</p> <p>5) Building any of the proposed barriers is a waste of time and money. Should any funds actually become available for the worthy cause of suicide prevention, they would be much more effectively spent in stepping up a human presence, surveillance, crisis personnel, and psychological intervention and support services.</p> <p>This is not what the designers of the Golden Gate Bridge intended. This is not what the majority of the bridge-using public wants.</p>

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samantha	DePetro-Wysuph	i have heard people say building a barrier would not solve the underlying mental health status of suicidal people. This is true, but people who have never received mental health help might need to jump and be caught by a net or something in order for them to be 51/50-ed and receive the help they need. It would be good if a mental health professional could be on-site wandering around doing interventions. Many suicidal people don't realize that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problems. Prevention is key, but not everyone has equal access to healthcare that could prevent suicide. Even if one person is saved then it is worth it!
roan	derow	well, it is very funny to hear people in commission talking for ten years about a barrier to stop suicide from happening. ten years. how many died during that time : considering numbers which varies from 23 to 80 a year, we got like an average of 50 a year time ten wow 500 already jumped. how much was paid for those commission to talk about it? then we might see who is really responsible for doing nothing!!
Kay	Derrico	Keep as much of the esthetics as possible while saving lives
Kay	Derrico	from suicide.
Paul	Deuter	Suicide is preventable.
Paul	Deuter	The look of the bridge is classic and should not be changed.
Jennifer	Dever	No build would preserve the current look of the bridge.
Jennifer	Dever	Although the report clearly states these alternatives would not directly impact wildlife, the construction process would. It is not worth risking further damage to the sensitive coastal shrub/scrub region at the staging area.
Jennifer	Dever	The GG bridge is the most beautiful bridge in the country, if not the entire world. Therefore, any modification would be aesthetically unacceptable.
Jennifer	Dever	None of the 5 alternatives is without problems - each modifies either the look of the bridge (net barrier) or the view from the bridge (additional barriers/new barriers). They all negatively impact the visual and aesthetic value of the bridge.
Jennifer	Dever	The GG bridge is a cultural ICON. It is incredibly imperative to preserve its original design in its entirety. Any modification will certainly impact the design and even a slight impact is unacceptable.
Jennifer	Dever	The staging areas would risk impacting several sensitive plant species, and most likely increase the persistence of invasives.
Jennifer	Dever	The EIR/EA draft was comprehensive and I feel adequately addresses potential problems, but does not speak to the urgency of the matter. This bridge is something that should NOT be modified. The impacts are too significant, and I am not sure that the report really spells this out.

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		Those set on killing themselves will find a way, if not the bridge then some other way. This is a waste of time and money.	
Tony	Draga	We need to spend resources on those who want to live. The movable barrier to prevent head on auto accidents, is far more important. This has been talked about and studied for as long as I can remember. Let's cut the crap and get it done now! Let's save these lives!	
Brian	Dragomanovich	There is no substitute for personal responsibility. Please do not alter the aesthetics of the one of a kind GG Bridge!	
Chris	Draper	We must not alter the historical bridge. It is as it should be.	157
Chris	Draper	While it's a terrible shame that more than 1,300 people have taken their own lives, this bridge represents the whole Bay Area. We must live up to its history.	
Rosa	Dreety	The Golden Gate Bridge is an historic structure and should not be altered in any way except for the placement of a barrier to avoid head-on crashes in the middle of the Bridge.	158
Rosa	Dreety	The Right to Die is our final right. No one has the right to take it from us. Although I do not believe in violent means of self-deliverance, I believe the Bridge is a non-violent means of ending one's life should one choose to do so.	
		I disagree with putting a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge, because I do not think it will serve as a deterrent to suicide nor reduce the number of suicides each year. Suicidal individuals will quickly learn that the Golden Gate Bridge is no longer a location where suicide is possible, and it is not reasonable to assume that just because they cannot jump off the bridge, they will no longer be suicidal (especially in the long-term - when everyone is aware of the suicide barriers). Suicidal individuals will merely seek out another means of killing themselves. Other means, like intentionally overdosing on medications, for example, may fail and leave the individual brain damaged for life. If suicides are stopped on the Golden Gate Bridge, their numbers will merely go up elsewhere. Also, if elsewhere, they might not be able to receive adequate help (e.g. via help telephones, etc.). This would merely be a "feel-good" measure, that would not have its intended effects. Do not get me wrong, more help should be available to suicidal individuals, but this is just not the right way to do it.	
Mark	Dreger	BUILD SOMETHING. IT IS A TRAVESTY THAT SO MANY PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY DIE.	
Emily	Drennen	BUILD SOMETHING. IT IS A TRAVESTY THAT SO MANY PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY DIE.	
Emily	Drennen	BUILD SOMETHING. IT IS A TRAVESTY THAT SO MANY PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY DIE.	

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Tim	Dunn	the 10' fences are visually atrocious and destroy a unique and sublime aesthetic experience. it should be noted that although 20 persons on average commit suicide off the bridge a year, another 700 persons on average commit suicide in the greater metropolitan area. the fence will devastate a beloved icon but will not stop suicides.
		People who are going to commit suicide in such a grand manner plan it in advance. If the bridge is changed so that it is no longer an option these people will just change the location for their suicide. You may be able to stop them from committing suicide on the bridge but you will not be able to stop them from committing suicide all together. This is a waste of time & resources.
Kim	Dupuis	Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, & 2B are UNACCEPTABLE due to their significant negative impact on bridge aesthetics and potential impact on birds. I'm not totally convinced that Alternative 3 avoids those same problems, but it seems the least offensive of the four Build options.
Theresa	Duran	Take Golden Gate Bridge is too accessible for people contemplating suicide. We definately need a barrier.
Carol	Durazzo	
David	Durkee	This project will seriously damage the aesthetic value of one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Just as San Francisco is trying to bring the movie business back to town, that they have chased out with regulations and high costs. The barrier would have zero effect overall on suicide.
David	Durkee	There are no alternatives to this waste of taxpayer money. You can't save lives. "Saving lives" is a fallacy. Everyone dies. No exceptions. It's up to people to choose how to live, and if need be, when and how to die. That's sacred.
David	Durkee	I can't believe you guys spent \$2 Million of OUR bucks on this worthless study. And I'm dismayed that you setup a web page that clears all my comments when I click on the link to see said worthless study.
David	Durkee	I think I'm done. I can tell you that there are 30K plus deaths from Firearms in this country a year, and 55% of those are suicides. This barrier will have zero effect, except to line the pockets of corrupt politicians and contractors.
David	Durkee	Waste of money. I hope the corruption cash you stole was worth it.
		Thoughtful report. Extremely important to create a suicide barrier. I totally support that. Would be great if it did not impede one's line of sight from the bridge -- the net system seems the most reasonable.
Maty	Duryee	Please do something to prevent suicides from the bridge. The "No Build" alternative is unacceptable.
Carolyn Susan	Dyer Dyneck	the bridge is a beautiful and historic architectural sculpture and is views are truly awesome, it would be criminal to change it.

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Susan	Eisen	With determination one can crawl out of the net and continue the jump, unless any number of bones are broken when hitting the net, i.e. a broken neck in a dive, broken legs in a feet first jump and/or broken spine. All other barriers would have to be greased to prevent climbing, or have a grid the size of chickenwire. Besides there are other bridges and cliffs all over the area. G.G. bridge is simply the most available site for suicide.	
Beverly	Elciewicz	I think the vertical system to the outside handrail appears to me the most effective because the height of the bridge would discourage people to climb onto the handrails to jump. This would also give witnesses time to call the authorities for assistance.	
Beverly jason	Elciewicz elepano	I am happy to see people recognize this issue as a serious one and are trying to implement strategies to help. The environmental analysis does not adequately address the historic nature of the bridge.	160
		Additionally, the impact of any changes need to study the impact to wind resistance. Engineering analysis on the changes to resonant frequencies of the structure	
jason	elepano	The Golden Gate Bridge is historic, and visual/aesthetic changes should not be made, except to improve/sustain the functionality of the bridge (e.g., retrofit for earthquakes, repairs, wear and tear, etc).	161
jason	elepano	The Golden Gate Bridge is historic, and visual/aesthetic changes should not be made, except to improve/sustain the functionality of the bridge (e.g., retrofit for earthquakes, repairs, wear and tear, etc).	162
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on cultural resources such as mental health specialists.	
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on cultural resources such as mental health specialists.	163
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation and parks that benefit all, not just a few dozen a year that choose to end their lives.	
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation and parks that benefit all, not just a few dozen a year that choose to end their lives.	
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation that benefit all, including plant and animal species of California.	
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation that benefit all, including plant and animal species of California.	

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Jane	Euler	The GG Bridge is known worldwide. Do not change the look in any way. Any changes could impact the structural design of the bridge, would require more maintenance dollars and ultimately would not be worth the extreme cost to build and maintain. There are phones in place for those who aren't sure they want to go over the railing. For those who want to, they would still find a way. Don't waste the money.
Leigh	Evans	We can certainly spend the funds on improving lives of people in the Bay Area. For the few who want to end their lives, nothing can be done to deter that if the will to die is strong enough. PLEASE! Do not waste money on this ineffective project.
Tom	Evans	It appears that the barriers added onto the existing railing (vertical or horizontal) do the best job of keeping the historic look of the bridge while providing this important safety feature.
Liz	Ewing	I believe that if a person is so distraught, he or she will find another way to end their life.
Dan	Ezekiel	Of course the high rails are unsightly compared to a 4-foot rail. But, I think the low rails were a major design error by the architects of 70-80 years ago, and it's our responsibility to correct this mistake. I disapprove of nets, due to the magnitude of efforts required to retrieve jumpers. I think if the bridge were designed and built today, it would have high rails and that's what I support.
Dan	Ezekiel	I am a mental health professional employed in the public sector. I understand the intense and irrational nature of ambivalent severely depressed individuals to make regrettable decisions in a crisis, or based upon a passing impulse. I know that a sizable portion of the jumpers acted impulsively. And, that's why a barrier is needed. In most cases, suicide is not a rational decision; therefore, our decision regarding building a barrier shouldn't be based upon supposedly rational suicidal individuals. Such analyses miss the mark completely.
Linnea	Faeth	Do not change the look of the bridge.
Linnea	Faeth	So what a few people jump!? Why do we have to save people from themselves?
Anders	Fairbanks	Vertical seems to blend in more with the existing structure of the bridge. I disagree with anyone who says it looks like prison bars - it just looks like a fence.
Anders	Fairbanks	This really should be done. I hope that the many, uniformed voices who claim "if they want to jump, let 'em do it, because they'll go somewhere else otherwise" do not drown out what experts and studies have posited.

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Porter	Felton	<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
paul	felton	<p>The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.</p>
Porter	Felton	<p>The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.</p>
Tony	Felton	<p>ALL the alternatives for suicide prevention strategies are foolish and unneeded. In a purely Darwinian concept, people who commit to, and proceed with their own suicides, are serving the human race in a way that takes them out of the breeding pool. While this sounds hard-hearted, particularly to the bereaved who are left behind with grief and a ton of unanswered questions, it is still the best for all the rest of us, as a group...</p> <p>At a time when the Bridge Authority is so hard pressed for funds that it is perpetually running in the red, an additional expenditure such as this is simply not justified. It is unfortunate that hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent on this effort in fact-finding endeavors, but that should not make this a self-fulfilling project.</p>

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Susan	Foley	Do not build this thing, any of it. It's ugly and wasteful of public money. Suicide prevention programs will do a lot more good.
Susan	Foley	Do not build this thing, any of it. It's ugly and wasteful of public money. Suicide prevention programs will do a lot more good.
bill	folia	no build
J.	Folla	The Golden Gate Bridge is an iconic, historical site known around the world and should be left in it's original form.
J.	Folla	To spend 40 to 50 million dollars in these fiscal hard times is ludicrous, but is outrageous at any time. I'm all for helping people who turn to suicide in desperate times, but you could probably help them more by using this kind of money more directly. Many would just go somewhere else to do the deed. Lets be responsible emotionally and fiscally. If we have that kind of money, let's put it to better use.
J.	Folla	With 50 million one could certainly have many years of foot patrol to prevent suicide. And then another 50 million when folks start jumping from the west side. How many injuries and death annually on the bridge, how many in the bay area? There is still no barrier between the two sides of the bridge.
J.	Folla	Do not change the bridge. Do not alter its appearance. It is an important landmark. Do not add extra weight to the bridge.
J.	Folla	I feel strongly about this. I feel badly for those who jump. I wish they had other ways of healing themselves, and I don't think the barrier will help them. Use the money to help them.
CB	Follett	Horizontal System may be easier to climb than Vertical System.
Sandy	Fong	No Build.
Shelton	Fong	No Build.
Shelton	Fong	No Build.

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		Wasting scant public resources on this foolish project removes more money from the budget (or puts us more in debt, as it were). Even if California could afford this, the money could be better used for public parks and recreation. Improvements which everyone can benefit from possibly will have an overall positive affect on people's mental health which may even lead to less suicidal people anyway.
Blu	Forman	None.
Blu	Forman	When the report comes out I will evaluate it.
Blu	Forman	none yet
Blu	Forman	When the report comes out I will evaluate it.
Blu	Forman	SAA
Judith	Forman	The visual impact will be minimal. But I don't really care how it looks. If it saves lives, that's much more important.
Judith	Forman	Alternative 1B seems to me to have the smallest impact on the appearance of the bridge.
Judith	Forman	Adding these safety features does not damage or alter the bridge's historical significance in any way, so I don't see a problem. San Francisco is a beautiful city. The Golden Gate is a beautiful bridge. By saving lives, the new safety features will make
Judith	Forman	Adding safety features to prevent suicides has no impact on the land or recreational use of the bridge, as far as I'm concerned. I've never heard of anyone jumping off the bridge for fun!
Judith	Forman	The only biological impact I see in this is the prevention of suicides.
Judith	Forman	The environmental analysis seems perfectly adequate to me.
Judith	Forman	It's about time!
Paul Jack	Forrest Forrester	Any kind of barrier would detract from the visual/aesthetic appearance of the bridge and the views of the city, and spoil it for the many many tourists who visit the bridge every year.
Paul Jack	Forrest Forrester	PLEASE!! do not spoil this beautiful bridge with such a ridiculous practically idiotic notion of deterring suicide.
Jack	Forrester	I could climb right over that new fence and kill myself. especially if i wanted to kill myself
Jack	Forrester	it is a hideous realization of moronic liberal notions. ruining our most treasured landmark.
Jack	Forrester	we want to have abortions and put up suicide barriers? what's wrong with you guys?
Jack	Forrester	an abomination of one of the seven wonders of the world.

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Judith	Fouchaux	All of the alternatives will detract from the beauty of the bridge and will not necessarily cut the number of suicides. There are other spots for suicides that will undoubtedly get more use. Why destroy the beauty of our bridge? Better to use the money to get at the source with better social resources for people in trouble.
Toni	Fourte	Visually, barriers be they on or below the bridge would be a ugly and a constant reminder of a negative situation (death). When people visit the bridge, it is a positive event. The barrier is contrary to the purpose for the visit. Putting a net below the bridge could make jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge a new extreme sport.
Toni	Fourte	We should not be burdened with the cost of prevention. If someone decides to jump, let them jump. The consequences should fit the situation.
Keith	Foy	Fencing make the bridge look like a prison. People can jump off of netting once they have jumped onto it from the bridge. Tax payer money can be better used to provide counseling to those in need. I prefer alternative 1A because: 1) It includes the handrail that is currently on the bridge, and maintains the historical aspects of the bridge, 2) It has a top to the barrier that curves inward, making it very difficult to get over, and 3) the horizontal bars allow a pedestrian to see the entire skyline of San Francisco in one view.
Antonia	Fraker	This is crucially important. Thank you for working on this.
Antonia	Fraker	Please do not destroy a world class landmark with ugly barriers!! Safety nets on buildings in Europe have been very successful without destroying the design integrity of the buildings.
S. C.	Frame	It is not possible nor necessary to baby-sit every person for any conceivable harm. The U.S. should be more like Europe where the populace is expected to TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE'S OWN ACTION AND NOT BLAME ANYONE ELSE.
S. C.	Frame	

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liz	froneberger	<p>horizontal system can still be climbed, it would appear. If that is not correct, please let me know. The vertical system, it seems to me, would be transparent to those of us driving over the bridge in cars.....and people can still take unimpeded pictures (and take in the views) at either end of the bridge.....The negative environmental impact? Less food for the fish???</p> <p>Obviously I jest; but the ease of access is a painfully bare fact. And people, regardless of age, are not thinking clearly when they jump over the rail.....please listen to suicide experts, not armchair philosophers, when it comes to the science of suicidal behavior.....</p>
liz	froneberger	<p>If we are to make a decision, it must be based on facts, not myths and common misconceptions. The one misconception that seems to be in the media regularly (and has NO factual base) is the idea that people will simply go somewhere else. PLEASE, can we work with whoever we need to work with on this one? The fact that many people believe it does not make it so. If people cite this reason as to why they are against it, frankly, the opinion should be discounted. It is counterproductive for either the media or the Bridge District to continue citing fantasy as the basis of rational argument. What they SHOULD be doing is taking note of the number of people who are using this as the basis of their argument, and doing some education.....not until people are EDUCATED will there be able to be a worthy debate.</p>
neil john	fruman frye	<p>The financial cost, a one-time event, must be pro-rated over X amount of years in order to figure out a more accurate "cost" projection with regard to lives saved. Furthermore, in order to get an accurate count of lives lost, I suggest we employ cameras -- I very much doubt that only 29 people a year jump from the bridge..... THAT would be hugely controversial, but only because it would more accurately capture FACTS. And the only rationale for NOT filming it, frankly, is that it is in "bad taste???" If it's happening, and we know it, we are obligated to make decisions about addressing the issue. If it's not happening, then no problem, right? No rational reason for NOT gaining film evidence and chronicling the real scope of the problem....</p>
		<p>Liz Froneberger, RN no net, add height preserve the appearance of this historic bridge. all of the proposed new railings are out-of-place in this setting. alternative 3 (net) is the least offensive of the "build something" proposals.</p>

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Rob	Garner	Completely removing the existing railing and installing a new system, Alternates 2B or 2A, will open up the field of view and create a modern, open sight of the water. A down side is that this may create a visual distraction to drivers, as the existing vi
Laurie	Garrett-Cobbina	I am concerned about the visual/aesthetic, however, I am more concerned with human life. Any barrier is often enough to deter a suicide attempt. I would support any alternative to the non-physical suicide deterrent in place now. If there is a robbery at a store, security cameras would be installed. A thief could still rob another store, but not making any move to prevent a reoccurrence seems absurd. If one is diagnosed with cancer, chemotherapy will often follow. The cancer may continue to spread, and other illnesses could still terminate their life, but refusing treatment seems counter productive. If over a thousand people have committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, a barrier should be built. A person with a suicidal ideality could still end their life other ways, but opposing a barrier is asinine, ignorant, and senseless.
Monica	Garwood	Please spend the millions on schools, counseling and public safety. If we put up a barrier, then we must ban all other ways of committing suicide (sleeping pills, etc.). The bridge is the most photographed man-made structure in the world. A barrier would look awful.
Lorraine	Gast	I think all of the proposed barriers would save lives without any impact on bridge aesthetics.
Angela	Gates	Generally ugly and cumbersome. Especially the ones involving REMOVING the historic handrail. How could you? The fact that most options block the views from the Bridge and will impact the view of the Bridge when viewed elsewhere is sad.
Jason	Gates	The vertical bars in alternatives 2A and 1A are downright ugly - they look like jail bars. That's not a view ANYONE wants when they're on the bridge, whether they're planning to kill themselves or not. Alternative 3 is the least invasive and would least alter the look of the bridge.
Jason	Gates	I don't believe any barrier will be really effective in deterring suicide, even "impulsive suicides" especially on a location like the GG Bridge. If someone is determined, they're going to do it no matter what the barrier. People can and do find a way. Please, leave the Bridge alone.
Jason	Gates	

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		<p>Suicidal people will just use another method if there is a barrier on the GG bridge. Speaking from past experience, if one method fails... it is because they are calling out for help or they move on to another method that works. My cousin tried ODing on sleeping pills and moved on to taking his life with a gun. Family intervention, constant observation, etc could not stop a determined adult... neither could a barrier on the GG bridge.</p>
Cristina Jenny	Gonzalez Goodall	<p>The proposed designs do not obstruct the view and are actually attractive.</p> <p>Main questions about 2a and 2b are 1)durability? 2)tamper proof? Could some athletic person like Kevin Hines climb 2b and scale over, since horizontal system is theoretically more climbable?</p>
Erica T.	Goode, M.D.	<p>The bridge is historic and should be left as is. If someone is going to commit suicide they will do it with or without a barrier on the bridge. The only thing saved is the embarrassment (ie: publicity) of them jumping from the bridge, but they will still be dead. They won't decide against suicide just because they can't jump from GGB.</p>
Jim Bob	Goodman Gordon	<p>Only Alternative 3, the net system, is acceptable. The other alternatives seriously detract from the bridge's aesthetics.</p> <p>If a person wants to commit suicide, he or she can do so any other way. I appreciate the view of the bay while driving over the bridge which will be hindered if a barrier is erected.</p>
Sandra	Gordon	<p>I'd like a combination of 2B and Alternative 3 that would prevent suicides and also looks good aestetically and visually.</p>
Galina	Gorodetsky M.D.	<p>I believe that the GGB District should utilize the suicide prevention team better, including the \$5,000 bicycles you all bought for the team.</p>
Hans	Goto	<p>The barrier will greatly diminish one of the most beautiful landmarks in the world.</p>
Joshua	Graber	
Carolyn	Gracie	<p>I have practiced psychiatry in SF or Marin for 27 years. I think that a barrier would prevent some completed suicides, and that some people would not go to find another way to kill themselves. Experiences in other cities, such as Toronto, Ontario, Canada have born this out. It is time to disassociate suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge in our eyes, and those of the world.</p>

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Kathryn	Grant	I'm not from SF & used to live on the east coast, but one of the reasons I moved to the bay area is because I love the gorgeous Golden Gate Bridge &, then, San Francisco. I've always loved SF & cried when my vacation was over--that's when I decided to move cross-country & be where I want to be. The GGB should be left alone--completely!! If people are stupid enough & unstable enough to want to kill themselves---I say "let them!!". One less idiot in the world. I'm all for saving lives, like in an accident, fire, medical emergencies, disasters, etc., but if some idiot wants to take their life---well, if they find they can't jump off the most beautiful bridge in the world, they will find an alternative--whether it's another bridge, a building, a gun, pills, whatever. If they did manage to jump & didn't kill themselves & were paralyzed/vegetable---then they'd be a burden on their family or the state. Also, if they had planned on jumping from the GGB & found they couldn't, they might become a loose cannon & take them with them in another way. You don't know what people will do. The bridge doesn't need the extra weight from the steel netting & it certainly should not be changed aesthetically for any reason. There's something wrong with someone who wants to kill themselves--not matter what the reason-- & it's a sin. I may not be from this area, but I feel just as strongly about this as the locals.
Kathryn	Grant	Please let the most beautiful bridge in the world remain the most beautiful bridge in the world.
Christian	Granzow	Please keep the bridge as is with no barriers or nets.
Charlotte Blake	Grava Gray	If somebody wants to commit suicide, they will find a way to do it no matter what precautions everyone might take. It is ridiculous to destroy the aesthetics of our beautiful, historical, landmark to try to solve the horrible problem of suicide. Today the District announced a \$1 hike in tolls because of a deficit. This is presumably before spending \$25 million for a suicide barrier that the overwhelming majority of Golden Gate Bridge users do not want or need. If you can find the money for a barrier, intended to stop a few people from jumping, spend that money instead for the people using the Bridge as it is intended. Leave the bridge alone.
Blake	Gray	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most important visual icons in a city where tourism is one of the most important industries. None of these alternatives are as attractive as the bridge is without them.
Blake	Gray	Walking on the Golden Gate Bridge is a tremendous attraction for tourists, and tourism is one of San Francisco's most important industries. No barriers should be erected that would diminish the pleasure of walking across the bridge.
Blake	Gray	Suicide barriers are being forced upon a city whose residents do not want them. Putting barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge will not eliminate suicides; it will simply move them elsewhere. This is not a worthwhile reason to diminish by even 1 percent the attractiveness of one of the city's icons. Nobody flies from abroad to see the Bay Bridge.

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Gavin	Hayes	<p>This is a waste of money that will deface our most famous and applauded landmark. Where are the preservationists now? What is being proposed is a barrier that will just make it a LITTLE more difficult to jump. Raising the height of the barrier would just make the climb up a little more difficult. The net idea is also a waste. All they have to do is jump down to it and then jump off of there. it would still be fatal. Stop controlling lives and trying to determine ones destiny. This is laughable and oh so San Francisco. I couldn't expect anything less. Leave the bridge alone.</p>
Trevor	Hayman	<p>A visible barrier will destroy the historic look of the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>According to the web site www.suicide.org in 2005 there was 32,439 suicides. 52.1% was from firearms 22.2% was from hanging, strangulation, suffocation 17.6% was from poisons and lastly 8.1% from all other methods such as jumping off bridges. What this data tells me is that most people do not jump off bridges to commit suicide and suicides will continue to happen even if a barrier is erected. Its sad to lose someone who has committed suicide no matter how they do this, however a barrier on the Golden Gate bridge will not stop suicides. A barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will only change the location of the suicide and/or how a person commits suicide.</p> <p>I have been to other historical monuments and I look at pictures of how these places looked when they were first built and over time some of these places have deteriorated or have been changed and all that is left is the picture of how things were. While looking at these pictures I wish I was there to see the historic monument first hand but alas I cannot because it was changed. Please do not change the look of the bridge for myself, my children and my childrens children.</p> <p>Please spend the 40 million on up-keep of the of the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
Trevor	Hayman	<p>My concerns are primarily aesthetic and feel that an intensification of non-physical deterrence programs should be put in place and reviewed after at least a year before any physical changes to the iconic design of the bridge are even considered.</p>
jasper	haynes	<p>fence should match color of bridge, sturdy metal should be used that will not rust</p>
Grace	Hays	

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		<p>Everything I have seen and read over the last years has confirmed to me that any barrier would be a costly mistake. There are about 32,000 suicides a year in the US, and while that is a sad statistic (from a recent NY Times article)it speaks to the difficulty in eliminating the issue. Putting a focus on the bridge is the wrong place to address the problem.</p>
		<p>The dubious beneficial effect a barrier would bring to the issue of suicide would be more than offset by the enormous visual, historic, cultural and social loss a barrier would create. The powerful, positive experience of the openness that the bridge affords to millions upon millions of people would be destroyed. The visual, psychological and social loss to all of us would be inexcusable. The bridge - one of the wonders of the world - would be disfigured forever to make a symbolic but ineffective gesture.</p>
		<p>All of this already at enormous cost...money that could be better spent on counseling and intervention....what a waste.</p>
Jeffrey David	Heller Hellman	<p>This is a pathetic waste of money. Period. I think it is VERY important to do all that is possible to prevent suicide. We should not worry so much about the aesthetics - the bridge and the view will still be beautiful - but instead we should worry about the value of human life. When a person is in such dire straits and is presented with an opportunity to take their own life, they make take that opportunity - let's eliminate that opportunity! Suicidal thoughts are due to an illness that we should help treat. I lost my father to suicide when I was 5 years old and do not want any other child to grow up without a parent. My father reached out for help that day and no one was available. We should put preventative measures in place so that "help" is already there. Thank you!</p>
Pamela Eloice	Helman Helms	<p>spend the money to have additional foot patrols on the bridge</p>

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		<p>This huge amount of money needs to go into mental health to prevent suicide and not directly at the bridge, but into education and awareness of depression and impulsivity. Guns at home are far more dangerous than this bridge.</p> <p>1300 suicides over 70 years is a sad thing, but a hugely expensive barrier will not solve this problem.</p>
Pam Chris	Hemphill Hendricks	Any barrier will deface the landmark and will end up being no more than a waste of money. Those desperate enough to take their lives on the bridge will be redirected to some other means-- likely one that will harm or traumatize others. We don't need "this kind" of solution to a mental health issue.
Maureen	Henke	I don't think the golden gate bridge should get changed. There are a lot of visitors to the bridge each year that come for the views. A vertical system would take away from the views and the overall appearance of the bridge.
Maureen	Henke	If any change is to be made, the Net System seems to have the least amount of visual impact. It's a shame that anyone wants to change the look of the bridge.
Nicolle	Henneuse	This bridge is a beautiful, historical attraction for visitors around the world. Please do not mar the beautiful lines and architecture of the bridge for millions for the few that choose to take their life. It was their choice to end their lives and the cost for such a barrier could be better used for patrols on the bridge.
Nicolle	Henneuse	This bridge is a beautiful, historical attraction for visitors around the world. Please do not mar the beautiful lines and architecture of the bridge for millions for the few that choose to take their life. It was their choice to end their lives and the cost for such a barrier could be better used for patrols on the bridge.
Lisa	Henry	I believe the money is better spent working on people because if someone is going to commit suicide, they will do it eventually or not, regardless of a barrier. If one must be added (which I oppose), then the net is the least detracting from the beauty of the bridge as it should be. I don't want to visually see any difference.
patrick	henry	if we truly have tens of millions of dollars available to pay for this allegedly helpful barrier, lets spend that money on mental health programs that will benefit thousands of individual seeking help and treatment. not spend on saving the few people who choose the bridge to commit suicide.

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patrick	henry	is there ANY proof that those planning suicide won't simply find another method of ending their lives? in front of a bart train or worse? how much will that cost us all in drama and cash? maybe we should eliminate all trains since someone can kill themselves that way? this all makes ZERO sense. and embarrasses me that fellow liberals feel this is an appropriate expense of our limited taxpayer dollars. and that so much money has ALREADY been spent exploring this NO BUILD - let's close this debate, please.
Shane	Hensinger	The net keeps the view from the bridge but also stops the crazies from jumping. I'd prefer nothing be built but if we HAVE to build something the net is my first and only choice.
Heather	Hernandez	The barrier proposals would destroy the beauty of a historic cultural resource that is an international treasure. If we really want to make a difference in people's lives, then the money would be better spent on non-physical suicide deterrent programs not only on the bridge, but in the Bay Area--for residents and tourists. Enhance the presence and availability of these resources in hotels and tourist areas. Do not destroy the beauty of this structure in a misguided attempt to assuage the grief of the few who have lost loved ones.
Heather	Hernandez	I am against a vertical or horizontal deterrent barrier. If someone wants to commit suicide they will find another way to do it. I think the barrier will ruin the visual and aesthetic beauty that is the national landmark that marks the bay area. That may sound unfeeling but the money spent would better be used for the moving lane barrier. We probably see more deaths on the bridge for oncoming traffic then jumpers.
Magdalena	Hernandez	Use some of the money to put in suicide phones to talk to live people.
Magdalena	Hernandez	

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A	Hodges Hodges	I can't believe my hard earned money is contributing to this study and web site. You should be ashamed.
Aaron		The 1000 dollars a year I spend in tolls is contributing to maintenance of this site and a research study? You must be joking? No really, this is a joke right?
		The personal pain of loved ones of suicides is not a public issue. The bridge did not kill them, they killed themselves.
Hillary	Hodges	Mac Coffey has it right. No barrier.
Susan	Hoehler	
Mark	Hoffman	You need to build the protection
Bruce	Hoffmann	Please do not build this barrier. Aesthetics aside, what is the point? Bad/sad events take place everyday. Can we really justify spending \$40-50 million to "possibly" save about 20 people a year. We would have to assume that one, the barrier will completely stop suicides from the bridge (not likely) and two, these people will not simply choose another location-likely for at least a percentage of them. If people started jumping from Half Dome would we put a fence around it? What about the Marin Headlands? If you factor in ruining one of the worlds most beautiful man-made structures, the whold idea is horrible. Judging by comments left on SF gate on-line, I would say an overwhelming majority of the local population would agree.
		A barrier is necessary and the type is best up to engineers for bridge safety and historical impacts. Wind factors and long term maintenance should be considered.
Bill	Hole	A tall barrier is our responsibility. Too many people have given their lives by suicide. We must help to stop this illness.
Bill	Hole	

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Susan	Hurst	This may not prevent all people from climbing, but the height represents a significant obstacle. The designs are in keeping with aesthetics of the bridge.
		I am opposed to the barrier for two reasons: One - I believe it will only displace the suicides to another location, not eliminate them. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will do it in another manner and it will cost the taxpayers a lot of money just to transfer a suicide to another location. Two - I am opposed to altering the appearance of the Golden Gate Bridge, a historic structure, for aesthetic reasons. It is a huge tourist attraction and its attractiveness will be diminished which will have some effect on its popularity which could adversely affect the income of tourist dollars to our region in addition to causing a visual bight.
Duffy ERIC	Hurwin HUSK	I'm sorry but I still don't understand the importance of a suicide deterrent system. Please do not alter the physical appearance of our stunning bridge.
ERIC	HUSK	We are all born with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right of life includes the dangers inherited therein and necessarily extends itself to the rights of self-termination. You are not doing anyone any favors with this project. Please abandon the suicide deterrent project!
ERIC	HUSK	This is a ridiculous sum of money that could clearly be used somewhere else. More community service programs and amenities would probably reduce the suicide rate of living in an overpriced City anyway.
ERIC	HUSK	I am a constituent. Please abandon the Golden Gate Bridge suicide deterrent project!!
melissa	huth	it's going to save lives and families, who cares what it looks like.
john	hutson	stop wasting money.
john	hutson	forget about it and take your family out to dinner.
amy	hutto	With all due respect for the man who jumped and survived and spearheaded the barrier campaign, this is not a good idea. There are other bridges right here in the Bay Area, not to mention razor blades, sleeping pills, heroin, hell, apple seeds for god's sake. Put the money into the underfunded mental health sector. Treat the problem, not the symptom. This kind of ridiculous missing-the-mark- policy-making is the very kind of thing that could drive a person to jump. I spent several weeks pondering a jump at one point in my life, and I'll be darned if any barrier system would have stopped me. What an absurd waste.

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Gene	Jack	any change from what current design will result in an unmitigated negative impact
Gene	Jack	to install a suicide barrier would destroy one of the world's greatest historical landmarks
Joan	Jacks	I don't think a suicide barrier should be built. It would only save a portion of the lives as some would use other means if the bridge wasn't there. Tax payers or those who cross the bridge should not have to pay the huge sum to save a few lives of people who don't want to live, not to mention the undesirable change to the bridge itself. And even Federal money comes from the taxpayers.
DAve	Jackson	Aesthetic concerns on an historical site are of supreme concern. People will find a way to commit suicide.
DAve	Jackson	If the project has to go forward, please DO NOT add vertical or horizontal bars that would be visible. A net would probably be the least intrusive mechanism.
Joanne	Jackson	Waste of money, waste of time. You can't save everyone and can't save people from themselves.
Joanne	Jackson	High rail will look like jail and be very easy to get over, plus make it harder to stop a jumper in the process. Net will catch litter and junk and get trashed. When a jumper doesn't quite make it, huge potential for injuries and gigantic lawsuits. The maintenance issues, both expense and time, are unbelievably expensive.
Joanne	Jackson	Will suicide barriers be installed on all the other bridges? Such as Carquinez/Al Zampa? The new Benicia? How ridiculous. People must be responsible for themselves, not constantly saved by everyone else. Erecting a barrier implies it is the legal responsibility of government entities to stop suicides, thereby opening up huge potential for lawsuits. "The barrier didn't work, it should have been a different barrier, or the bridge should not exist."
joanne	jackson	This is just another ridiculous million dollar expense to save people from themselves. So you come up with a net, barrier, whatever. Then the people who really want to commit suicide will just go to the Bay Bridge, or perhaps one of the tall buildings in SF. Do we just keep putting out more money for more nets etc.. You can't save a serious suicidal person.
Pat	Jackson	Please do not alter the Bridge in any way. People who want to kill themselves will succeed, one way or the other. Also we can put the money to better use elsewhere. My sister committed suicide, so I am very familiar with this behavior.

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Robbyn	Jackson	Given the facts around the number of suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge, I don't think any organization can in good conscience consider the no build alternative. The Golden Gate Bridge is a known destination point for suicides. Suicide deterrent programs have not worked. The time has come to install a physical barrier.
Robbyn	Jackson	The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation should not be used as a potential reason not to improve a structure when dealing with a health and safety issue (or any other important issue - disabled access, energy efficiency, codes). The Secretary's Standards were written to guide us when we need to modify a historic structure - not to keep us from doing what is right and necessary. I've spent 20+ years in the historic preservation field, so you can believe what I say.
Jerry	Jacob	Letting "Survivor Guilt" and an opportunistic documentary, drive an expenditure of at least \$50 million is grossly irresponsible and typical of yielding to the "Tyranny of the Minority". The squeaky wheel is again making a great deal of noise here and we've already wasted enough money oiling it. As a percentage of the Bay Area suicides, both identified and misnamed each year, those which occur from the bridge are insignificant. Amortized over 50 years, at a minimum, we're talking about spending some \$27,000 per potential suicide and that figure does not include the opportunity cost of the money! Insanity!
Jerry	Jacob	My most urgent concern is that a barrier be erected to prevent any one from being able to jump off the bridge. Knowing someone who has done just that, and who would have been prevented from taking his life had a barrier had been in place, makes me believe this barrier will literally be a life saver.
Margit	Jacob	I walked across the Golden Gate Bridge the day it opened in 1937 and do not think it should change at all.
Caro	Jacobs	If people are going to jump let them jump. What would be a good idea is to do something to prevent accidents, like lower the speed limit.
Caro	Jacobs	You cannot stop people from committing suicide. I personally knew three people who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge. If they hadn't jumped from it they would have jumped from the Bay Bridge, some tower, some tall building, or committed suicide some other way. The proposed expenditure of \$50 million dollars and the defacing of the classic Golden Gate Bridge would be ridiculous.
Justin	Jacobs	The installation of the barriers being considered would, I believe, constitute a hazard to all traffic on the bridge as they would be affected by strong winds going through the Golden Gate.
Ruth	Jacobs	

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Tom	Jones	I can't believe the city of SF would even consider doing this. The average of 18.3 people a year have jumped off the bridge in the last 71 years. Use the money to support programs in the city, to support the schools, or public safety.
		Golden Gate Bridge is a world famous historical architecture that is functional and serves it's purpose well even after 81 years. It's beauty should not be compromised because of ill advised decision of some deranged individuals. Golden Gate bridge with this projection around it is ugly and will be a laughing stock for San Francisco and USA. We do not have enough money in the entire US budget to ensure misguided people from killing themselves. I feel sympathy for them I just know that it is impossible to save everyone from everything. It would also set a dangerous precedent since other well meaning people would want BART, MUNI buses, Trains and others to erect safety barriers to prevent suicides. At that rate we might as well just declare Bankruptcy right now.
Tom	Jones	
Helm	Jordt	No build, no alternatives, stop wasting our money and resources.
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colton		While I feel for those families left of suicide, one way or another the person will find a way. Why not use this money for people who are driving a very unsafe bridge and don't want to die. I witnessed one of the head on accidents, luckily no fatalities, and saw the impact first hand of a head on. I'm just wondering why the bridge is spending so much of our money on something that impacts a few who do not want to live; when it can be spending the money and time on something that can unexpectedly impact the folks who want to live. I hope this is not too harsh - but it is ones opinion. Colton
Nancy	kealing Keane	These are all absolutely hideous.
Nancy	Keane	These are unacceptable.
Nancy	Keane	I have no idea what this question means
Nancy	Keane	No idea what this question means
Nancy	Keane	No clue what this question is asking
Nancy	Keane	I do not believe that any barrier is going to be effective to reduce the total number of suicides (by all means) and it is really going to ruin our landmark bridge.
		I'm supporting Alternative 3 because it prevents the person's death and allows intervention to offer help in dealing with the person and his/her needs at this critical time.
		I have a personal interest in preventing suicides from the bridge, having witnessed a person going over the side and having a young adult relative also go over the side.
Sister Fran	Kearney	visual aesthetic, as well as the cost. If we are going to spend \$50 million, spend it to reduce the murder rate in bay area cities, which claims far more lives than GGB suicides. Or Drug Rehab to get homeless off the streets.
Thomas	Kearney	I strongly oppose anything that compromises the aesthetic integrity of one of the most cherished architectural/engineering landmarks in the world. We have an obligation to respect the design of the bridge and the unimpaired views that make the GG Bridge a cultural treasure. Suicide is tragic and deeply affects the family and friends left behind by the victims but I don't believe that "child-proofing" the bridge, with all its negative impact, will solve the personal problems that put them there in the first place.
Neil	Keating	

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		<p>We can all live with the net.</p> <p>A barrier is too radical as it takes too much away from the rest of us - for the few in society who want to use the bridge for suicide.</p> <p>A net is the only solution for the ENTIRE community.</p>
<p>Natalie</p>	<p>Kniess</p>	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is a historic landmark. I do not agree with changing the appearance of the bridge. I looked at photos of the different barriers and the one that changes the bridge appearance the least is the Net system which is still going to show up in photos.</p> <p>If people want to commit suicide they will find a way to do it even if the bridge has a barrier. Something like 55% of people that kill themselves do it with a legal gun that is in their house. At least half of those people would not commit suicide if there was not a gun in their house. I think that is a bigger problem to address. There's always drug overdoses or fatal car crashes. You can not protect people from every way of committing suicide. Having people listen and talk to them seems like the best thing. I really think those different barriers are ugly and change the look of the bridge in a bad way.</p>
<p>Diana Karl</p>	<p>Knight Knight</p>	<p>You can not protect people from themselves, please do not deface the bridge trying.</p>
<p>Karl</p>	<p>Knight</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>Kirby</p>	<p>Knight</p>	<p>The money would be better spent on mental health services to prevent suicide and would even help those who do not use the bridge to kill themselves.</p>
<p>Diane</p>	<p>Knoll</p>	<p>The GG Bridge District is spending money like they had it. They are financially unstable/unresponsible and the money they have spent on the study to date is outrageous.</p>
<p>Diane</p>	<p>Knoll</p>	<p>If someone is in that dark place to commit such an act they will find some place to do it. We cannot cage the world! Stop the madness.</p>

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Robert Daniel	Knox Kocher	The Golden Gate Bridge is a visual/aesthetic treasure. All of the suggested barriers, in one way or another, would compromise its beauty. None of them would prevent all suicides off the bridge. The number of suicides that occur from the bridge is a very small percentage of the suicides in California, or even in the Bay Area. It is an inexcusable waste of public money to construct a suicide barrier on the bridge.	186
		a barrier would adversely effect our culture in that it would show that we do not value the grace and beauty of historic structures and will bend to the lowest denominator for the sake of political correctness and that we would spend money for a political symbol when the funds could be put to other use for much greater public good -	187
Daniel	Kocher	we should not waste money destroying the esthetic beauty and historic importance of the GG bridge - there is no study of any kind that justifies this barrier when looking at all of the suicides from other buildings and in other places in San Francisco - this entire subject is an unqualified waste of public money - suicide is not an issue to be delt with by barriers but rather by mental health services - it is also a fact that beigde suicide are a very smallportion to the total number of bay area suicides annually - thsi does nothing to address the cause of suicide but only molifies the political agenda of a certian activists groups who would choose to act destructively to our environment in furerance of their political/political correctness agenda -	188
Daniel	Kocher	under no circumstances whoudl any barrier be erected to in any way adversely impact any existing view	
Daniel	Kocher	the barrier woudl adversely impact tourism, and walking on and enjoying the bridge	
Daniel	Kocher	the EIR should clearly state that any barrier would destroy the historic nature of the bridge structure and have an unlimited adverse effect on the quality of our environment	
Daniel	Kocher	the adverse impacts noted in the EIR shouldl be sufficient to stop all further consideration of any barrier on the bridge and bring this matter to a complete and final close - no build is the correct answer now fully supported by the EIR	

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carl	kowall	use a invisible or visable lazer system that will shock but not kill a person when the beam is crossed. put the system on the out side of rhe present railing .close to the railing yet wide enough that some one cannot j8ump over it. a lot less costly and easy to maintain plus it can record frequency etc etc. . in other words solve the problem electronically...carl kowall 914 443 2894 sacto
Sarina	Kowall	I don't live in California, but I am a taxpayer. I also know several people who have successfully committed suicide. They find a way. While I feel for the families who have lost loved ones, I truly believe they are trying to place blame on something that is not to blame. Why waste taxpayers money, and ruin a national monument because people are too stupid to find a way to deal with their problems? Help is out there in many forms. If someone wants to kill themself I call it Darwinism.
Courtney	Krakie	if the \$50 million needed to complete the barrier were spent on mental health treatment and services for residents of the Bay Area I believe there were be far fewer people who see suicide as an option. We need to focus on the problem (mental health) and not the means (the Bridge).
Elizabeth	Krakov	It is way past time for this. I have lost two people in two years to suicide on this bridge. I cannot stand idly by and watch our wonderful bridge morph into a symbolic gallows. Please do the right thing.
roger	krakow	it doesnt affect the view to bad and i think it is very primitive that we dont have one... its very easy to jump or be thrown over it will save lives
Sandri	Kramer	I found all of the views of the bridge minimally impacted; it is very difficult to distinguish between the various designs. The views from the bridge are obviously impacted and I therefore appreciate the allowances made in the designs for unobstructed views at intervals. Historic preservation is important but never to the detriment of human beings. The designs show that careful consideration is made to preserve historic details.

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Bob	Ladd	It will make the bridge safer for everyone.
Bob	Ladd	I think more birds may run into some of the alternative structures, as a result of the increased height of the guards.
Bob	Ladd	Thank you for doing this. We need the suicide barrier.
Carl	Ladd	I'm a 68yo recovering denial alcoholic. I've been working on my unresolved issues most of my life. You're dealing with only the symptoms of helping "jumpers". What they need is tough love guidance which will help them to choose not to jump. Please point them to where they can find it at no cost via signs or banners that tell them about The Foundation Of Human Understanding (www.fhu.com). They are helping me to cope with lifes daily slings and arrows. There's a scene in a movie: "Pay it forward" about a lady wanting to jump. A great positive scene. Thanks 4 letting me pay it forward.
Griffin	LaFlamme	I think that this proposal is absolutely naive and atrocious. To think that a "suicide barrier" with deter or prevent anyone from making this enormous choice is incredibly naive. That such bias was printed in the marin LJ sickens me. My family was the victim of two suicides last year.cousins very close to myself, I completely feel for the victims of these tragic events, but to place the blame on the bridge itself and the lack of safety devices is ridiculous. That the parents of these young people try to place the blame on the bridge is out of control. The issue needs to be addressed, not singling out one way that suicide is committed. These young people, and anyone else for that matter, will find a way to carry this out if they feel strongly enough. Which proves the point the issue needs to be addressed, not one bridge, and one little fence built on it. If adults and rational thinking truly believe that one fence on the golden gate is to blame for this, I am deeply saddened and distressed.
chad	lafontaine	There are scientific studies showing that of the people who are stopped from committing suicide, 94% go on to live out their natural lives. Any effort that helps save lives is worth it.
Carolyn	Lagerlof	The ability to walk across the bridge - to enjoy an unrestricted view affect the aesthetics, cultural, recreational, tourist value of the bridge - all of which are detracted by any vertical system - note the current prison-style fencing in place - not pretty, not welcoming, not inspiring. I cross the bridge most days either by car, bus or on foot.
Carolyn	Lagerlof	Suicide is a sad fact - but not one suicide has been caused by the bridge. Compared to the millions who have walked across, the suicide % is very small. What prevents a suicide is good support from family, friends, medical professionals - not a fence, not a wall. A question - in the same time span (50+ years) how many suicides have been reported in the state??
Carolyn	Lagerlof	

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Sandra	Leggett	Spending this money is ridiculous. First you don't have it. Second, if a person wants to commit suicide they will find another way to do it if they can't jump off the bridge so no suicides would actually be prevented - the bridge would just look awful. The families of suicide victims pushing for this should have recognized their family member had problems and got them help to prevent suicide. It is not the city's fault that they neglected to do this and now want to blame the city because of their guilt. This money would be better spent helping those people who want to live by providing food and shelter.
Christine	LeGrand	Any proposed structural change to the bridge for suicide prevention will be a waste of time and money. Please don't do it.
David	Lehrer	I feel strongly that adding a vertical element to the bridge would detract from the historic design, and would detract from the enjoyment of the many recreational users of the bridge. The change would be very expensive at time when resources are extremely limited, and may only have the effect of forcing suicide attempts to other locations or methods. The traffic lane dividers that have been proposed would be a more valuable addition to the bridge's safety features
Ken	Lehto	Having bars, vertical or horizontal, greatly diminishes views.
Ken	Lehto	Alternative 2A has the best chance to stop a suicide attempt. With the others it's possible to climb up over the top for a determined suicide attempt regardless of the winglet. These provide footholds of sorts. Using nets? Waste of time for a determined s
Gabriel	Leis	Let's instead spend the money on a barrier that protects those who really don't want to die, a MEDIAN barrier.
		Unless barriers are intended to protect innocent bystanders below, than NO ADDITIONAL BARRIERS should be built.
James	Lemaire	It is NOT the function of the GGB Transportation District to protect individuals FROM THEMSELVES.

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Eugene	Lee	The view would not be unobstructed significantly in Alt. 3 because no wires would be directly in front of you, at face level. A vertical system is much better than horizontal system. The lines running down from the main cable are vertical, that symmetry should be maintained. Horizontal line make the bridge look like a prison cell with jail fencing.
Eugene	Lee	No building will be impacted, so cultural resources impact would be limited
Eugene	Lee	Unless there is money to pay for the suicide barrier, the point is moot as to which system to eventually use. The cheapest and least expensive thing to do is NO BUILD.
Ginny	Lee	It is unconscionable for the GG Bridge authority to put aesthetics ahead of saving lives. It is wholly irresponsible.
Ginny	Lee	What about the 2 year old toddler who fell between the aperture between the sidewalk and the bridge road.
Jane	Lee	Has anyone addressed this problem?
Mike	Lee	Waste of Taxpayers Money! Leave it alone. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will.
Warren	Lee	How can you stop people from committing suicide? If you build a form of net or fence deterrent system any suicidal person could just simply jump climb over it. It would decrease tourism - if the fence were built, not only would the beauty be distorted. Who wants to look over the rails and through a fence to see the beautiful city? Its like going to a construction site and trying to peer through the fence to see whats going on. Not only that, tourist would now be fully aware of the suicides that occur on the bridge annually that number around maybe 12. Currently tourists who walk across the bridge the idea of suicide doesnt even cross their minds, they probably believe its some small myth, but if the deterrent was there, it would only be that much more evident.
Dorothy	Lefkovits	Since it has been found necessary to create a barrier for preventing suicide, I think my choices above (2B, 1B) will alter the looks of the Golden Gate Bridge less than the others will.
Sandra	Leggett	Any of the alternatives would ruin the beauty of the bridge.

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		<p>In today's Marin Independent Journal, an article features a Tiburon couple whose daughter jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge in January 2008. Presumably jumped and died her body hasn't been found. She could be off enjoying a new life somewhere.</p> <p>Did this young woman's parents let her drive? Yes, they did; she drove to the bridge the day she jumped, the article says. Her parents should be advocating changing the laws allowing teenagers to drive. Their daughter was at much, much, much higher risk of dying from an automobile accident than from a bridge jump.</p> <p>I suspect the parents would respond, "What does it matter that she was at higher risk from driving? The fact is, she jumped, she died, we lost our beloved daughter." But no one is proposing that anyone forced her to jump; no, she jumped because she wanted to. It doesn't matter that she may have been of disturbed mind when she jumped. Many of us drive while we're of disturbed mind; maybe that's part of the reason there are so many traffic accidents. What will the Tiburon couple do about that?</p> <p>This couple's response is due to complete and total self-absorption and selfishness. Their daughter was going to die someday: dying is a fact of life. Do they want what's best for their daughter, who wanted to die, or what's best for themselves, to have a trophy daughter?</p> <p>I strongly object to a barrier being added to the Golden Gate Bridge. Either leave these suicidal people alone, or offer them something that could really help: fully funded and universally available mental health services.</p>
Cathy John	Lynch Lynch	<p>This is an important and historic structure - beautifully conceived - and it would be a crime to alter it in any way.</p>
Christopher	Lyons	<p>It is a personal decision</p>
Christopher	Lyons	<p>NO BUILD!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
K	Lyons	<p>If someone wants to commit suicide they will find a way to do it. It's a waste of money and resources to pay for any of these things.</p>
James	Lyttle	<p>Do NOT add anything to the Golden Gate Bridge to inhibit suicides. People bent on suicide will just go elsewhere. Better to try to inhibit suicides on CalTrain tracks, because it is so gruesome for bystanders!</p>
ilene	m	<p>I would like to see the money go to a barrier in the middle of the bridge to protect those that do not intend on dying on the Golden Gate Bridge in a vehicle accident. I personally think that a suicide barrier is not the answer to suicide.</p>
Stacy	Ma	<p>I don't think visual/aesthetic should be considered a priority over the lives of individuals. If that was the case, then other places such as the Empire State Building and the Brooklyn Bridge would not have the measures they have in place to prevent people from jumping. The view is still just as nice with rails set up to prevent people from jumping.</p>

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Stacy	Ma	Add vertical system to outside handrail. I think a vertical system would be better than a horizontal because it would be harder to climb up a vertical system.
Stacy	Ma	although individuals would not get a clear view/picture of the bay area, they would still get to enjoy the view. Just as it is with any other landmarks with fences, people will still visit it and take pictures, etc.
		A net system is a bad option for several reasons: 1) a net isn't nearly as effective as a barrier (someone can still jump from the net to their death); 2) retrieving someone from a net presents additional hazards for police officers engaged in rescue efforts; and 3) a net could attract people who jump as part of a fraternity initiation rite or other stupid endeavor.
Anne	Mabee	Something must be done! Yes, it may make the bridge look different, but look at what's important here! Scenic beauty? It's man made. It's about time we make it less attractive for the mentally ill!
Anne	Mabee	Seems that for mitigation, in addition to the filer and the displays at the visitor centers, there should be a dedicated website that documents the history of the barrier efforts and how the issue has unfolded over the years.
Penny	Mabie	I chose the net first because it addresses a prevention method while at the same time keeps the integrity of the visual experience that all the millions of people have been experiencing and therefore can continue to experience. I chose the horizontal addition to what is already there because I imagine as anyone would be driving or walking by they would not have a visual and/or sensory experience of bars like in a jail. The horizontal allows people of all different heights to have their space to see the view and drivers would not see a rippling effect that I imagine would be very visually disconcerting.
Susan	Mac Veigh	From what I have read about this barrier thus far, I believe one should be there and that should not be a decision based just on what the public says. Even though I believe all of us should have the freedom of the beautiful view, I believe it really is best to create a deterrent and that decision should just be made and done the best with it in terms of money and such.
Susan	Mac Veigh	The GG bridge is famed world-wide and saving lives should be done in a manner that does not detract from the experience for the thousands, perhaps millions, of other visitors. Please combine safety with minimal impact to views from the bridge, and to any birds, insects or other non-human bridge users. Thank you.
Chris jim	MacIntosh macleod	Any barrier is absolutely wrong, and should not be put in place. The bridge is a historic structure and belongs to the citizens of the State of California as it currently stand. Its aesthetics should not be ruined by any sort of addition.

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jim	macleod	Any specific barrier will only prevent a despondent / suicidal person from committing suicide at the bridge. It will not prevent suicide. The desire to build a barricade serves only to pacify / clear the consciousness of bridge officials and others that don't want such an act occurring at their location.
jim	macleod	Any barrier will diminish the character of this historic landmark.
jim	macleod	The bridge is a hugely photographed and visited site. Any sort of barrier will deter from its current beauty.
jim	macleod	Many people visit, walk, ride, run, drive, view, etc. the bridge each and every day. Their enjoyment of the bridge would be compromised by a barrier.
		I do not believe that any suicide barrier should be added to the bridge. If other major bridges allowed pedestrian traffic, they too would attract suicides. Much as I enjoy walking the span, I would rather have it closed to foot traffic than disgrace it in such a fashion. As a social worker, I cannot comment on whether someone will, or will not, continue to pursue suicide. It is irrelevant, if you have so much money, put up the median barrier to protect those of us who wish to live.
Gail	MacMillan	Stop wasting money and apply any resources to a median barrier.
Gail	MacMillan	This bridge is a scenic resource not only to the Bay Area Community but a larger world community.
Lori	MacNab	Do not diminish the Bridge's scenic character by hanging any barriers.
		Anything that thwarts an impulsive suicide attempt is priceless. How can a city be called civilized when it has the world's leading magnet for suicides in its midst & does nothing about it? If one human life is saved by this barrier, it would be worth it. It's time to get beyond aesthetics & focus on what counts--saving lives.
Julia	MacNeil	I would want the birds to be protected during construction and afterwards. I understand that the glass used would be glareproof - this would be very important for people with glaucoma. I ALSO WOULD like the best view possible, along with the suicide prevention construction. I would want the horizontal system to be one no one could use to climb up.
Doris	Madden	I think the winglet is VERY important. The signs for the suicide prevention phones should be very evident at all entrances to the bridge. I agree with all 11 criteria for the physical suicide detergent system criteria. Thanks for this afternoon to answer questions of native San Franciscans. :o)
Doris	Madden	You cannot force people to not kill themselves....if people want to die, they will find a way. Why should the general population suffer and pay for a barrier?
scott	madison	

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<p>Julie Melissa</p>	<p>McLisky McMahon</p>	<p>I am curious as to what the barrier would look like. People in Marin say that it will take away from the view. In all this information, they really don't "show" what it's supposed to even "look" like.</p> <p>And they showed the "median zipper", I'm not understanding that.</p> <p>Could you please post the proposed barrier on your site?</p>
<p>Catherine</p>	<p>McMichael</p>	<p>As a San Francisco native, I would hate to see the bridge change. If it's not broken, don't fix it. However, if someone told me a barrier would save all those who suffer from depression or mental illness or would prevent all future suicides, then I would be all for it. This is not possible. I think the aesthetics are a non-issue because no one is addressing the real problem of suicide, which is depression, not the bridge. How about we spend \$25-\$50 million to treat people suffering from depression and mental illness rather than treating a symptom. This isn't about aesthetics it's about treating the actual problem. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death and firearms, suffocation, and poison are by far the most common methods of suicide, not jumping from the GG bridge. (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention.shtml). The loss of a loved one is tragic, but barriers do not treat the true problem. The \$2million already spent could've been used to treat people with depression or to educate the general population on how to spot the signs of depression and what to do.</p>
<p>Catherine</p>	<p>McMichael</p>	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is iconic and part of our historical heritage. It should not be marred with a physical obstruction that may or may not deter suicides. No evidence has been presented that can prove such action would reduce suicides. Suicidal people intent on ending their lives will usually find a way to do it, regardless of convenience or method.</p> <p>Instead of permanently marring the beauty of a national treasure, why not invest the money into counseling, better surveillance, and more frequent patrols?</p>
<p>Donna</p>	<p>McMorrow</p>	<p>If a barrier is built on the GG Bridge, what is to stop potential jumpers from jumping off the Oakland Bridge, or the San Rafael Bridge? I am someone who suffers from depression and has attempted suicide. I believe people should be allowed to commit suicide if that is what they want to do.</p>

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Kathy	McMorrow	Although I understand the motivations of families who lost a loved one to suicide from the bridge, I don't think you should alter the design of this world-beloved landmark. Spend the money on suicide patrols on the bridge if need be but leave the beauty of the bridge alone.
Dana	McMullen	This is essential to save many lives!
Thomas	McNamee	All the barriers proposed would threaten birds passing through the Golden Gate, several species of which are threatened or endangered under state and/or federal laws.
Thomas	McNamee	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the world's great works of art. All of the barriers proposed would be, in effect, acts of vandalism.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3--the nets--would be the least intrusive of the anti-suicide devices, but even it would seriously degrade the aesthetic qualities of the bridge.
Thomas	McNamee	The experience of walking or bicycling across the Golden Gate Bridge is a unique way of knowing the city and the bay. The city's and indeed the whole Bay Area's cultural heritage would be drastically degraded by any of the proposed barriers.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3--nets--would be the least degrading to the bridge's cultural value, but it would nevertheless function as a constant reminder of depression and suicide to the hundreds of thousands of bridge users who know the bridge as a representation of triumph and ingenuity.
Thomas	McNamee	The experience of walking or bicycling across the bridge is one of the great recreation opportunities in the Bay Area, and especially meaningful to our visitors from all over the world. Best of all, it's free. Any of the barriers proposed would significantly degrade that experience.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3 would intrude less on the recreation experience than the barriers, but it would still serve as a macabre image in what till now has been a picture of joy.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3 would be least damaging to birds but would still increase bird mortality.
Thomas	McNamee	The quality of the barrier designs is very poor.
Thomas	McNamee	An increase in anti-suicide intervention by trained personnel could significantly reduce attempted suicides at a fraction of the cost of even the least expensive barrier.

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Jim	McNeal	<p>We shouldn't build any suicide deterrent barrier on this Golden Gate Bridge because it will adversely affect the view that we currently have overlooking the Bay. To add barriers will greatly affect the view in the most adverse way. 23 suicide deaths in 2005 is not that significant to make such a drastic change; hundreds of thousands (perhaps more) people currently enjoy the view from the bridge each year. To make this change will surely affect that.</p>
Jim	McNeal	<p>Building a suicide prevention barrier is infringing on the personal freedoms of those people who genuinely want to end their lives. People are suicidal for a reason, and if they find no joy in life and would like to end theirs quietly and peacefully, then they should be allowed to do so. According to your website, 23 people jumped off the bridge in 2005. Far more people have died from other preventable ways that were far more painful or violent. The \$40-50 million dollar budget for the proposed suicide deterrent barrier should be better spent on other social programs to help clinical depression and the like, or other programs that will improve the way of life for people who live in the Bay Area.</p>
marylee	mcneal	<p>I believe the important thing first is to do all we can to prevent suicides on the bridge, and secondly, to do it in a way that is most aesthetically pleasing. To me, this is alternative 2b.</p>
Lisa	McNeil	<p>Need for a barrier outweighs the above resource areas.</p>
Geoff	McNew	<p>Why not install a diving board for jumpers and charge a fee? Charge additional fees for options such as filming/DVD of the jump. Use the funds raised from the diving board to pay for a moveable lane barrier to protect commuters driving across the bridge.</p>
Brett	McPherson	<p>Visually and in a historical context I am against the barrier in all alternatives.</p> <p>I understand the "draw" of the bridge for potential suicides, but strongly feel people will and do commit suicide in many other ways. Funding prevention programs and looking at other potential means of suicide is where I would rather see our Federal money spent. My father committed suicide with a hand gun when I was two and it just makes me think guns are a much bigger threat than the bridge and much more lethal when making a split second decision to commit suicide. I really do feel for any family who's lost a loved one to suicide.</p>
Brett	McPherson	

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Ronald Willi	Mick Mickelson	I feel that \$40 to \$50 million can be better spent. Anyone of the options that include increasing the height is going to drastically decrease the aesthetics of the GG bridge. The clear viewing stations will soon become scratched and graffitied making them useless. Even if they were not damaged, it would not compare to an unimpeded view.
David	Middleton	Do NOT waste the money
David	Middleton	Do NOT waste the money
Holly	Middleton	I am not wedded to one style. I would favor the least visually intrusive solution that is an effective suicide barrier (as proven in other similar sites). For whatever psychological reasons, the most highly motivated, active people in any public debate are always the opponents. I don't believe the 75% "anti" rate I read in today's paper is a representative cross-section. Mark me down as a PRO-BARRIER voter. I love the bridge passionately, but human lives outweigh aesthetics for me.
Holly	Middleton	I think the \$50 Million would be much better spent if it was given to mental health facilities and services that help the mentally ill and suicidal.
Maureen	Middleton	Any barrier will decrease the number of suicides. As Vice President of Nami San Francisco I can tell you that we know personally the tragedies that can be prevented.
Dale	Milfay	I am no engineer but I can't believe the added weight and wind resistance of the alternatives presented will not adversely affect the bridge in the future. Continue to emphasize prevention as opposed to doing something that could damage a national treasure.
Ray	Miller	just close the bridge to foot traffic
Beth	Miller	why ruin the views for everyone for the benefit of just a few people?
brandon	miller	we don't have the money to spend to begin with, and I'd rather see those dollars go to getting people mental help and off the streets instead of trying to physically prevent someone from committing suicide. surely they'll just go to a different bridge, building, find a gun, etc.
brandon	miller	Please do something. I've known several people that have committed suicide by way of guns. It was the quick and easy way out. A suicide barrier on the bridge will take away the 'easy' factor. I've long felt that if my friends had to work at committing suicide, they may be alive today.
Daniel	Miller	The addition of a suicide barrier will have no discernable effect on any of the visual, cultural, land use, biological et al resources related to the bridge.
Eugene	Miller	

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Melanie	Morgan	I do not believe that the Draft EIR/EA has captured the real value of the No Build alternative. In the midst of the public pressure to address bridge suicides, the visual and aesthetic importance of the bridge world-wide has been minimized or lost. The impact of the Golden Gate Bridge, like the Statue of Liberty, goes beyond measurements, sight lines, materials. I urge the District to look for other deterrents to bridge suicide - deterrents that do not so dramatically alter the Bridge's aesthetic perfection.
Melanie robert	Morgan morgan	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge. I first saw this bridge in 1963 and was awed by it. Living in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma County since and it's always a pleasure to travel it or to take visitors to it. None of the suggestions will meet any reasonable goal to retain the beauty of this wonder.
robert	morgan	No build seems the right solution. 1A is second worst looking 1B is prison look 2A is ugly 2B is prison plus ugly C is less unsightly, but still ugly and apparently all these methods may make people choose a different site or worse, jump into traffic!
robert	morgan	I have reviewed the section (18 p) of this and the problem remains no matter which approach, but less than C.
robert	morgan	Sad that people jump off the GG Bridge, but they'll go elsewhere or figure or take the sidewalk into the roadway if the destination is the issue. A certain number of people in any city will attempt suicide and to modify a work of engineering to prevent this after the fact is folly. I'm surprised that the district spent \$2,000,000. to acquire this information.
robert	morgan	The apparent need for room to apply this and the cost to do so may be limited by prefabrication and installation during off peak periods. No doubt this change will impact many visitors the impact being unknown or difficult to pin down until it happens.
robert	morgan	Alternative No Build is the most effective means to retain the character of the structure and grant all citizens and visitors a benefit they expect.
robert	morgan	All the methods will require expensive maintenance and use of steel for this project increases the carbon footprint initially and over time, plus adds ongoing costs which trickle up to the users.

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Robert		Minat	If cost was not prohibitive, best solution would be to completely close the existing pedestrian walk and build a new walkway underneath the existing one...existing trusswork on underside of bridge would mask suicide barrier system, therefore adverse effect on bridge aesthetics would be minimal.
Bruce		Mirken	All of these represent a desecration of a unique and historical structure. None are acceptable.
Bruce		Mirken	The assumption behind all of these alternatives is that physical prevention of suicides is such an imperative that they justify desecration of a cultural and architectural treasure. In fact, free people have a right to decide what to do with their own bodies, including acts that we might consider reckless, foolish, or tragic. Not all suicides are irrational, but this attack on the Golden Gate Bridge is indeed irrational.
Ethan		Mirsky	Any of Alternatives 1 and 2 would result in the bridge looking a like a prison which would greatly negatively impact the experience of visitors and residents. I consider any of these to be completely unacceptable.
Adrian		Mirvish	Although I would prefer no changes, if a additional barrier is required, I believe that Alternative 3 (the net system) to have the least impact on the experience of users and viewers of the bridge and is vastly superior to any of the other choices.
Adrian		Mirvish	There is nothing aesthetically pleasing about a view that invites disturbed adolescents to kill themselves. We have safety measures for much less serious risks. Even the original designers were concerned about suicide risk.
			We have a moral obligation to do something about this risk.

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John	Negley	This is a waste of money. The GG bridge is going broke and your looking to spend millions to make it so people commit suicide in another location. Your not dealing with the problem your just moving it to another location.
david	neighbor	the vertical system would be the most effective and invisible as it would blend with the vertical cables of the suspension bridge. If you integrate the design to mimic the current handrail that exists i think that it would be okay to add to or replace the existing handrail but if the new design does not resemble the original architecture of the bridge then i do not think that removing any of the original structure is acceptable as i see this bridge as a historical landmark and it should be left intact.
		the horizontal proposal would just act as a ladder and the netting system would just be a hinderance and anyone determined to commit suicide and they would just jump from the netting. maybe we can put counselors on the bridge 24/7
david	neighbor	I picked Vertical system because I have seen a tower in Europe with verticle posts on top. It is aesthetically pleasing and doesn't interfere with sight seeing.
Ian	Neitzke	The bridge is perfect the way it is. Anything more is less.
Brian	Nelson	if a barrier prevents one human being from jumping, it will be worth it. For God's sake, for humanity's sake, construct a barrier.
Catherine	Nelson	The most important thing is to have some barrier!
Dawn	Nelson	

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Stephen	Noetzel	If you want to save lives, spend equivalent \$\$\$ on Aids prevention or even mosquito bed-netting in Africa.
Sheila	Noii	The Golden Gate Bridge would be visually unpleasing with any of the alternatives.
Sheila betsy	Noii nolan	The cost of the projects is too great for something that doesn't even have funding. Funding should be created for suicide prevention programs and perhaps gate watchers.
Ana	Noles, PsyD	Take a look at the Sydney (Au) bridge, it too is iconic and it's very difficult if not impossible to jump off of it ...
Andy	Noll	FUND MENTAL HEALTH ADEQUATELY. I do not think the protection of a few should impact the majority. The net system should be the only system and I prefer nothing at all.
Andy	Noll	My visual needs should not be impacted by this barrier system.
Andy	Noll	The 50 Million should be spent on other resources to help the people who would travel to the bridge to commit suicide. If you close the bridge to suicide they will find other ways to commit suicide. Death by train, other Bay area bridges, suicide by police and drugs. They will not just stop, they will find other resources.
Andy	Noll	This is a waste of money and I will fight this expense whole heartedly. The Golden Gate Bridge is already spending too much money and wants another fare increase. The GGB district should be dissolved and put into the Caltrans bridge system. It is time for changes and the dissolving of the GGB district need to happen now.
Kirk	Norenberg	The Golden Gate Bridge is a California icon. Any significant change to its appearance would be disappointing. This would break its symbolic permanence and its connection to its history. The Build Alternatives would have an unacceptable impact on the Bridge users. Their sense of awe and wonder would be diminished, especially those who would remember the Bridge's former glory.
Kirk	Norenberg	The No-Build Alternative is the only option that is visually and aesthetically acceptable.
Kirk	Norenberg	We should not do anything to the Bridge that would jeopardize its recognition as an historical landmark.
Gil	Norman	The view to the multi millions a year out weights the possible value of a few
Gil	Norman	Don't 'Blow' the money... You cant save everybody from everything

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ellena	ochoa	The suicide barrier would degrade the visual and cultural resource that is the Golden Gate Bridge. There is no getting around that short of an invisible barrier. There are much better ways of preventing suicides in the Bay Area than erecting a barrier of great cost at one in a million potential suicide sites.	205
ellena	ochoa	This is a bandaïd to a larger problem that would benefit from the \$50 million being spent on the barrier. With \$50 million, you could not only add additional bridge security such as increased patrols, video monitoring, etc, but the money could be allocated toward better suicide prevention treatment and awareness programs. This is a lot of money to throw at one of a million ways a person can kill themselves, which would also ruin a beloved landmark.	
Denise Jerry	Ockey O'Connell	Given that the most common method in the U.S. for committing suicide is by firearm (greater than 50%) and only 7% are from falls, I think that this is a HUGE waste of money. If someone wants to commit suicide, they are going to find a way to be successful. Spending \$50 million (likely to be more) on a suicide barrier is not going to make a big impact on the number of people prevented from doing this. California (in 2004) was 42nd in the nation in suicides, which is far below the national average and the average per 100,00 people.	
		Minimize aesthetic changes and maximize prevention.	
		People will continue to kill themselves, with our without a barrier. The issue isn't the bridge, it's people with problems.	
		Let the bridge be the beautiful piece of architecture it is and let those who want to kill themselves blame something else for their thoughts of demise.	
Stacy Stacy	O'Connell O'Connell	Don't put up any kind of barrier.	
		Barriers do not address the problem. Spend the money on education and help programs.	
tom Alan	o'connell O'Connor	This historic structure should remain unaltered and as its designers intended.	206
		What about a different more human approach.; Why don't we fund a crisis intervention center right next to the bridge in the Presidio. Make it a walk in and have counsellors who could patrol the bridge. It would cost a lot less than 40 million dollars and it would probably save more lives than a barrier.	
Cecile	O'Connor	this is so STUPID. why we would spend money on people who want to DIE, when we could use the money on people who want to LIVE. i'm a born and raised citizen of san francisco who is adamantly opposed to this.	
tim	o'connor		

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		<p>1. Visual - 2B improves views from the bridge when driving across the bridge. I have always wanted an improved view from cars. Any suspected negative impact to views is offset by the invaluable benefit of human lives saved.</p> <p>2. Cultural - The original design of the bridge is flawed and this must be rectified as any construction that caused the loss of life would be. It is the ethically correct thing to do. This bridge is internationally recognized and will remain so.</p> <p>3. Land use and recreational - All impacts would be temporary and minor. The result would be lives saved for generations to come.</p> <p>4. Biological - Changes to the bridge would not have any impact of significance to the future of bird life (or other habitats) and would have a positive impact on the future of yet to be born human life.</p>
Mary	Ojakian	<p>Which one could be built most quickly? Is there much difference in timeframe? If so, I'd go with the quickest. The bridge is still beautiful, as are the views, no matter which option. Option 3 seems to have the least visual impact. If just as effective, I'd go with that one; if less effective as a deterrent, I'd go with one of the others.</p>
edward	oklan	<p>I don't really care which of the options are constructed, as long as one of them is put in place as soon as possible to reduce the likelihood of any more fatalities.</p>
edward	oklan	<p>Other than ugly fences, there will be no deterring people determined to end their lives. The City of SF needs to increase it outreach and services for people to find alternatives to better their lives/talk to someone versus feeling there are no accessible alternatives. THE NET ALTERNATIVE WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE AGONY FOR VICTIM AND OBSERVERS.. VICTIMS WILL FALL TO THE NET THEN SCRAMBLE TO TOSS THEMSELVES OVER ANYWAY. OBSERVERS WILL BECOME TRAMATIZED AND VICTIMS WILL NOT TURN BACK. This is no solution at all</p>
Andrea	O'Leary	<p>Explore further alternatives for people, including volunteers, to walk the span and keep open a vigilant eye and sympathetic ear.</p>
Andrea	O'Leary	

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Susan Benjamin	Oshiro Ostapuk	<p>The GGB is an historical, recreational and cultural monument. It is viewed and photographed by thousands of people from every angle every day. Driving over it never ceases to be a beautiful experience. Spending 40million dollars on this project will not prevent suicides. There are many ways of doing that. Installing cameras, personnel, etc. is probably a better alternative because it might identify and ultimately save the lives of some people who need help.</p> <p>That amount of money could be used in so many more ways to benefit the community. I think it would be a big waste of money to build a barrier.</p> <p>Resources should be spent on general suicide prevention, not to specifically prevent the few of overall total suicides that happen on the bridge.</p> <p>Will improve visual/aesthetics because it will show the world that San Francisco cares about people.</p>
Susan	O'Sullivan	<p>People will continue to commit suicide with or without a barrier.</p> <p>I would rather see the money spent on police on bikes on the bridge (as now) and/or more programs to help the mentally ill.</p> <p>if ANY barrier is to be built, I would prefer just the "safety net" under the bridge.</p>
nancy	oswald	<p>The ongoing cost of each alternative isnt clear; nor are the statistics which follow those who attempt suicide to their next effort.</p> <p>Loss of ones loved ones is unquestionably horrible. Yet a barrier on this bridge will not stop those in crisis from finding a new magnet for their death. Americans always believe we can solve hurt with money; we cannot. Let us use 40B\$ toward some life affirming positive social end.</p>
nancy	oswald	
C	Overberger	<p>I am very concerned about the impact of any vertical barrier that would be visible from the roadway. The impact on the nature of the historic resource would be comprehensive and unnecessary.</p> <p>The net option would still create a visual impact to the most notable and important San Francisco cultural resource, however, it would be much preferable to the other more visible options.</p>
C	Overberger	
David	Owen	

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Jeffrey	Pelo	None of the options improve the bridge's design or character. In fact all of the options look ridiculous.
Jeffrey	Pelo	If someone can't commit suicide on this bridge, they will do it somewhere else, like the bay bridge or the cliff house. Putting all of these resources and efforts behind this project is a waste of time. Putting the \$25 million toward more important social programs would be a lot wiser and way more beneficial.
Jeffrey	Pelo	Part of the wonder, fascination and drama of this bridge is being able to look over and see the water and boats below. Unrestricted views of our natural treasure which is the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean is a quality of life issue. I've been enjoying the views for over 30 years and I hope my children can as well.
Judy	Penn	Leave it alone. The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world, located in the most beautiful locations anywhere, people travel from around the world just to see it, photograph it and walk across it. I'm more interested in preserving a historic monument in it's original form. If any changes are to be made they should only be made by making sure it is well maintained and will stand up to any earthquake or terrorist attack.
Judy	Penn	The money would be better spent supporting the Mental Health Systems in Marin County and San Francisco. If someone is going to kill themselves by jumping and they no longer have access to the GG Bridge they will start jumping from any of the other bridges in the Bay area or any tall building to which they have access.
Stacie	Pennington	I do not think that extending anything horizontally with benefit much, there are still ways or jumping with that... Do NOT spend/waste taxpayer \$\$\$\$\$ on this. Keep the bridge just the way it stands today. People will do what they will, and this plan to stop them is misguided at the least. Find a new mission, people.
Paul	Perencevic	

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Ellen	Peterson	<p>I think we should definitely have a barrier to prevent suicide. I will leave my opinion, on which barrier is best, to those who are spending more time on that decision. But I am definitely FOR THE BARRIER, whichever is best.</p> <p>Thanks so much for asking for opinions. I am not sure if many people know they should be voting here! I didn't know till Sunday's article (8/24/08). Maybe you need to publicize the vote. Does the vote actually make the decision as to whether you would construct one or not? or look at public opinion.</p> <p>Thanks so much,</p> <p>Ellen Peterson</p> <p>eftpeterson@comcast.net</p>	211
Erica	Petrofsky	<p>The money used to go through the whole process of approving and constructing the suicide deterrent structure would be so much better used in ways that help prevent people from WANTING to commit suicide. If they find they can't jump off the bridge, people who are serious about suicide will find some other way. The bridge is historic and is perfect the way it is. Please don't mess it up with some ill-conceived useless piece of junk that makes someone feel that they are helping people not kill themselves. Also, all the metal that is used is really bad for the environment. Before you start thinking about buying more metal, include the social and environmental effects of mining in other countries in your environmental report. Thanks for paying attention to what the public actually wants.</p>	212
Peter	Phaal	<p>All the barrier designs alter the appearance of the bridge. The clean lines of the Art Deco structure would be spoiled by a barrier. The barrier designs that alter the view from the bridge (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B) would ruin the dramatic views from the bridge that never fail to impress.</p>	
Dominica	Phetteplace	<p>Spend the money on mental health programs. Don't ruin the aesthetics of the bridge. No barrier!</p>	
Nicole	Phillips	<p>I've heard that nearly 50 potential suicide victims are spotted each year by police patrols and observant citizens or visitors, and they are prevented from jumping. If there was no possible way to complete the act on the bridge, then these potential jumpers would never be discovered and helped. Surely, more of these 50 potential jumpers would be successful elsewhere, where they may go undetected. Statistically, I believe that this makes perfect sense.</p>	
Ashley	Phillips	<p>I am not in favor of any change to the Bridge that would alter its appearance and historical value. It is a global icon of the ingenuity of mankind.</p>	213

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Francine	Reich	As a mental health professional I've seen too many impulsive suicides off of the bridge. I don't really care that much what kind of barrier is built as long as something is done to prevent the needless deaths.
Leah	Reich	The Golden Gate Bridge is an historic landmark that reflects the beauty, culture and environmental purity of San Francisco worldwide. No matter how depressed I may feel on any given day, the sight of this bridge and its simple beauty lift my spirit and give me hope every single time I see it. I strongly oppose any alterations to it. I empathize with those who have lost loved ones. If someone is committed to suicide, they will find another way. Marring the GGB, and the beauty of our Bay is not the answer. Please do not build any appendages to our bridge, which is one of the man-made wonders of the world. Thank you.
Victoria	Reichenberg	I'm in favor of a suicide barrier being added to the bridge. Thanks.
Holly	Reid	With 1200 suicides over 70 years, the average is approximately 17-18 suicides a year. I am wondering, if \$50,000,000 were spent in mental health programs, would the effective rate of suicide prevention be greater than the deaths from Golden Gate Bridge suicides. I believe we should address the source of the problem, instead of moving the outcome to another venue.
Daniel	Reidenberg	Saving lives is far more important that aesthetics or any other excuse offered to not build the barrier.
Russell	Reiff, MD	I don't like the horizontal systems--it looks like they could be climbed up like a ladder.
Russell	Reiff, MD	There is no question that a new barrier should be built.
Barbara	Reising	The alternatives are too expensive. Prohibit walking on East side of bridge Mon - Fri and allow walking on Sat - Sun when a lot of people are using the bridge. This would be a compromise.
Barbara	Reising	Are there any statistics on what day of the week people jump from the bridge?
Jody	Reiss, LCSW	My understanding is that the original design for the bridge called for a higher railing, so the original intent was for a design that would be just as stunning with more safety. I believe it is imperative that we put all of our resources into saving lives, and this is one important way to do it. Other mental health measures are necessary, but they can't take the place of discouraging impulsive, desperate attempts.
Jody	Reiss, LCSW	I am a social worker in private practice. I have lost a client, a colleague, and a colleague's 17-year-old son to the Bridge. In the past 6 months, two of my clients attempted suicide from the Bridge and, thankfully, were taken to SF General instead. One of those clients tried calling from an emergency phone, only to find it not working. She kept walking and used the next phone, but we almost lost her.

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Robyn	Riedstra	do your best to not detract from the beauty of the bridge. do not deform the bridge or it's original structure. It is a landmark and the original walkway and handrails SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED.
Jennifer	Rienks	Too many suicides are a result of a potentially passing impulse. Unfortunately, the bridge has become associated with suicide and too many see it as a quick way out. Much more needs to be done to prevent suicides on the span, and these deaths can't be prevented by human efforts on the bridge, then we must put a physical barrier in place.
Ben	Riggs	This is a waste of resources that will only divert suicides to other available methods that potentially would likely be more harmful to others.
Catharine	Riggs	The moral imperative to build a suicide barrier outweighs any political, cultural, aesthetic, financial, or environmental concern. The proposed barriers do not detract significantly from the beauty or use of the bridge, but would diminish one very sinister meaning of the bridge.
Henry	Riggs	Most unfortunate to add well intentioned but questionable "barriers" to this historic structure
Henry	Riggs	Unfortunately, the proposed barriers will not "catch people and let them rethink" - people who want to do this will find another location or method. Regrettably, the most popular alternative is to step in front of CalTrain which has more than 50 miles of accessible track and no realistic way to seal it from deliberate acts (there are other similar train and truck options). Please consider the train conductor about how he feels when his train takes out a human being before you put your heart behind the bridge barriers.
frank	riley	any barrier will significantly reduce the experience of walking or biking across the pedestrian portion of the bridge. Being able lean over the railing and look straight down to the water is quite thrilling and pure. taking that away or otherwise diminishing the GG bridge experience would be a sin. I notice in your logo you have faded out the lower portion of the span. well thats what you,d be doing if you couldnt lean over.
frank	riley	on the net alternative... if you put a net down there in such a way that the only way to access it would be to jump from far enough up that you might get injured just doing that then that would be a deterrent. because then you would be suffering before you jumped to the water and jumpers dont want that, they seem to want one clean jump, not get beat up on the way to doing it. Or heck just get a flying robot to catch people. I think they have them in China already.
Julie	Ring	I think this will be great, something needs to be done to prevent suicides off the bridge. I've lost someone this way, and maybe his life could have been saved if there was a barrier. I chose the alternatives I preferred, but I would be fine if the others were chosen, EXCEPT for the no build one.

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Phyllis	Rokes	My husband and I, our friends and our family are ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY AGAINST ALL OF YOUR PLANS!!! Most of us were born in San Francisco and still live in the Bay Area. If people are going to commit suicide, they will find a way. DO NOT DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN AND LOVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Before any of you do something like this, PLEASE put the issue on the ballot in a general election. You'll find out how much support or lack thereof that you have.
Greg	Roldan	I am a lifelong Bay Area resident and have grown to love what the GG Bridge brings to the state. The current appearance, with no additions is preferable to me. A net would really serve no purpose. If a person was intent on jumping, he would just move from the net and continue his fall.
Greg	Roldan	If a person was intent on committing suicide, he would find other ways to get around any type of barrier or find another method. If the district was serious about suicide prevention they would ban all pedestrians. They could use that extra space to add an additional traffic lane. Not an option.
Aaron	Roller	The bridge is beautiful and historic. The percentage of people that commit suicide off the GG Bridge compared to total bay area suicides is not that high and not worth the money. The cost is too high and the aesthetics are too invasive.
Aaron	Roller	It is fundamentally wrong to think that we can stop people from killing themselves by making it more difficult. The people can be saved, but it will be through counseling and helping those that seek help.
Lauren	Roller	I feel that the greatest impact of the change would be visual/aesthetic, but that impact could be minimized by using the net alternative (which disrupts the view from the bridge least) or by using a horizontal system (which minimizes the look of obstructions to viewing). The cultural impact is also a consideration, but I believe that the preservation of lives is more important than the preservation of a historical landmark in its original state.
Lauren	Roller	I'm so glad that this project is going forward. Projects like this in other areas of the country have had a significant impact on the number of jumping deaths. It's important to consider the aesthetic and cultural effects of these projects, but even more important to consider how many lives they could save.
Alyssia	Rollins	<u>My Friend Henry Lew committed suicide on this bridge. I would like to know that families and friends of future loved ones who commit suicide will never have to look at the bridge as i and many others do now. It is a representation of beauty yet I see it as a sign of death. If this net saves at least one life. Don't you think it would be worth it??</u>

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Christian	Salak	This issue has considerations that need to be considered prior to EIR/EA. Let me address those here. An expensive suicide barrier MAY ON OCCASION impair or prevent an individual from succeeding acting on the impulse to end his or her life by jumping from the bridge. The question is whether there is a public obligation, legal or moral, to intervene. There is no specific legal obligation to my knowledge. It is not part of the social contract. I do not believe that there is a moral obligation to build a barrier, or that the decision to not build a barrier violates any moral law. I do not accept the premise that there is a self-evident obligation for taxpayers to carry the burden of the cost of the barrier design, planning, construction, and maintenance. That is a point to be argued. So far I have not heard a convincing argument. There is also a practical issue, which is how is the effectiveness of a suicide barrier to be measured? How can it be possible to claim that an event was prevented when the event did not occur? It is possible to identify a suicide only after the fact, and not before. To think otherwise is to think in terms of the operative concept in the film/short story "Minority Report". In quantitative terms, a barrier may result in a statistical change in the number of suicides per year. However, it will not be possible to claim that it prevented the suicide of any particular individual. In my opinion, environmental issues arise only after the initial considerations have been resolved.
Debra	Salan, MSW, PhD	I think that either of the alternatives I voted for would be visually aesthetic.
Debra	Salan, MSW, PhD	The ethical imperative to save lives outweighs any recreational considerations. If a person can be deterred from jumping off the bridge at the actual time of crisis, it is much more likely that longer term types of prevention would be effective (such as longer term treatment, therapy, medication etc...).
Maida	Salcido	Any barriers will take away from the visual and aesthetic appeal of a very historic & infamous landmark. Leave it alone! It would be like erecting barbed wire around the statute of liberty and saying this will prevent terrorists from attacking New York again. Its a ridiculous idea.
Maida	Salcido	This is AMERICA, land of the free... If people wish to end their lives, let them! Who are we to tell anyone they shouldn't? Its none of our business. That's why we have suicide hotlines and counselors and other free resources that people can use. Why deform a landmark that will surpass all of our lifetimes for the sake of "preventing a suicide". If they are really intent to do it they will, barrier or not!

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<p>steven Lee</p>	<p>schreibman Schruben</p>	<p>I am a practicing psychotherapist of 30 years. I think a barrier is not a compassionate way of dealing with a suicidal person. I suggest the creation of a Compassionate squad of paid workers and volunteers to walk the span during access hours. Perhaps 2-4 people spread out across the span with access to cell phone and video cam with visible dress offering help and being trained to look out for depressed people. This could be a project of the suicide prevention program. It could be funded by the expected cost of the barrier or by volunteers, friends, family and concerned citizens who want to help. This would be a lot more healing method than dangling a suicidal person in a net. thank you for your consideration</p>
<p>Ellen</p>	<p>Schuette</p>	<p>Please put in a prevention system as soon as possible. Thank you. I think the money to be spent on this project should go to other projects. It's too much money to help so few people. Spend more on schools or low-cost psychological counseling. IF someone wants to kill themselves and the Golden Gate Bridge has a barrier, won't they find another spot to jump from? The funds should be used to benefit more people.</p>
<p>Joan Faye</p>	<p>Schulenberg Schulte</p>	<p>People will find other ways to commit suicide so I don't understand how a barrier will help. Certainly we have other more important uses for the money. Plus a suicide barrier would destroy the aesthetic beauty of the bridge which I imagine does impact tourism. The bridge design should not be changed. It's a cultural icon and a historic landmark. The designs restrict the viewing pleasure of thousands of people who want to enjoy the beauty of the bridge and surrounding environment. Please don't ruin it for all</p>
<p>Faye</p>	<p>Schulte</p>	<p>The bridge design should not be changed. It's a cultural icon and a historic landmark. The designs restrict the viewing pleasure of thousands of people who want to enjoy the beauty of the bridge and surrounding environment. Please don't ruin it for all</p>

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Sally	Scott	<p>Suicides are a mental health issue. Though regrettable, this is a social, cultural issue. In my view, installing a mobile center divider on the GG Bridge should be given priority in order to be saving lives.</p> <p>People who really want to commit suicide will find a way no matter what is done to try to prevent. Given our current economic situation within the state, I think we have to make choices about where we can spend our limited resources. I think our resources could be better used to try to provide education and health care which might help people's mental health before they reach the point when they will want to jump off a bridge.</p>
Susan	Scott	One of my friends jumped from the bridge.
Jane	Scribner	If there's a chance the romance of the bridge draws people to commit suicide there, its our moral obligation to prevent it.
Julie	Sea	Suicide is a tragedy. However, we can't assuage our guilt for every evil that exists in the World. Let's put our \$\$\$ where they matter. early on prevention. All the \$50 million barrier will do is give us a reason not to focus on the real issues of suicide.
Gregory	Seal	An additional feature of the Net System should be one that makes it very hard to escape or even one that closes up to trap the jumper until the rescue team arrives.
Mark	Sealander	
Alec	Seastrand	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the great aesthetic landmarks of north america. setting up a barrier (let's call it a fence), only degrades it's visual attraction and makes a statement toward our callousness of the environment. very little is done in this country to improve our global appeal and our attitudes towards historical preservation. Why would we consider an act that only bolsters and exemplifies the negative aspects of our culture? the least we can do, is respect the bridges original design and think of better ways to solve more local dilemmas. we shouldn't make the bridge, and every one of millions of onlookers, suffer because there is a greater social issue at hand. the bridge is not a scapegoat, and should not be treated as such.</p> <p>the bridge was built in the haze of the great depression in 1937. there was not a single construction related death in the years of it's creation. is it so much to ask that we find better ways of deterring death than creating a 7 foot barrier that is reminiscent of a prison? is it our government's obligation to protect us from ourselves, or is it our responsibility to acknowledge one another and examine our own actions?</p> <p>thank you for your time,</p> <p>Alec Seastrand</p> <p>Let me make it quite clear: I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY BARRIER. THIS IS A HUGE WASTE OF MONEY!!</p>
Jeffrey	Seastrom	
Jeffrey	Seastrom	End this project and disband.

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Sally	Simpson	<p>I am in favor of the barrier that is deemed most effective. I personally know of two Marin teenagers who have jumped and that two is too many. I believe some form of barrier will help get those in need to rethink their possible choice to jump.</p> <p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken. ... What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
Virginia	Simpson-Magruder	<p>The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.</p>
Virginia	Simpson-Magruder	<p>I'm sure this has been said before, those who wish to commit suicide will find a way. Just because a barrier is added to the bridge does not mean people will no longer commit suicide.</p> <p>You're bending over backwards for a few rather than listening to the many who are against this.</p>
Matthew	Sims	<p>A netting for a couple of reasons: The individual will know there is no way they will succeed, and the visual aspect wont be an issue.</p>
nigel	sims	<p>Defacing a national landmark and cultural icon for what is at best a minor benefit to the overall picture of mental health in the Bay Area would be a disaster for which future generations would not forgive us.</p>
Alistair	Sinclair	

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	<p>One of the most common arguments in favor of a barrier, that "even if it saves just one life, we have a duty to do whatever it takes" is totally disingenuous. Throughout life we weigh the costs and benefits associated with such decisions, in the public health arena as well as everywhere else. (If not, then we would have to spend every available dollar on health care, since each dollar would certainly help to save a life.) Deciding NOT to build a barrier is a perfectly reasonable outcome, based on such arguments as that the dollars could be more effectively spent on other aspects of mental health, and that the damage done to the Golden Gate Bridge is not justified by the at best minor impact on overall suicide prevention in the Bay Area.</p>	
<p>Alistair Amy Kiernan</p>	<p>Sinclair Sinclair</p> <p>I do think this expensive measure is going to prevent suicides. People who want to kill themselves will find another way. I think the money should go toward a center median that can be moved to help prevent head-on crashes that take place on the bridge.</p>	
<p>Amy Kiernan</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>Nets below would not look bad and would probably deter people from jumping.</p>	
<p>Amy Kiernan</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>I think the giant barriers ruin the historic look of the bridge and bring too much attention to suicides. People will still kill themselves...</p>	<p>225</p>
<p>Amy Kiernan</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>Net looks better and would not have a bad visual impact as high railings.</p>	
<p>Diana</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>It's NOT the public's responsibility, financial OR moral, to try to stop suicides off the bridge. It is also not the bridge district's legal liability to attempt to stop someone from trying to kill themselves using the bridge as their weapon of choice. It is the individual, and his family and friends, who should be fully legally and morally responsible. There are 'way too many other more important things the bridge district should be spending its revenues on, like a second deck (to separate the inbound and outbound lanes of traffic) or a permanent barrier between the opposing traffic flows. The only arguments against suicide are religious, and the US Constitution mandates a clear separation between church and state. If the Catholics and the other Christians have a problem with bridge suicides, let THEM fund the entire project!</p>	
<p>Diana</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>No build - no diminution of the visual aspects of the bridge.</p>	
<p>Diana</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>No change to the bridge = no impact(s) to cultural resources.</p>	
<p>Diana</p>	<p>Sinclair</p> <p>No change to the bridge = no impact(s) to cultural resources.</p>	<p>226</p>

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Fatima	Stanger	Spending \$40-\$50 million to prevent people from taking their life only to find another way of doing it seems like a poor way of spending a great deal of money. And who exactly will be paying for this? Whatever happened to coming up with a solution for a barrier on the bridge to prevent head on collisions?! I think that is where our money will be better spent and lives saved.
Heather Abe	Stangroom Star	Ultimately, and I know it is unfortunate, I believe that a persons life is far more important than the beautiful view. So whatever needs to happen should happen. But I think the net below the bridge would be the best option if there is one chosen. It is an equal agreement which protects people and keeps the beautiful view.
Abe	Star	Do not mess with this beautiful national landmark.
Lisa	Star	Please let those who want to kill themselves just do so. There is just no acceptable justification for any visual blockage to the Golden Gate Bridge.
Bill Bill	Stark Stark	The Golden Gate Bridge is an awe-inspiring site and arguably one of the most beautiful and timeless man-made structures on planet earth. Yes, people can jump from this bridge and take their lives, but there are thousands of other ways they'll find to do the same even if a barrier is put up. Please don't forego the joy and happiness this structure brings to people just to delay the inevitable fates of a few.
Chris Chad	Stasse Steady	Thank you for having an open forum and survey. The build should not take place because it would be obstructing a world famous bridge and sight. Not only would it be a complete waste of the people's resources, but LETS FACE IT: if peoeple have decided to commit suicide, a bridge "barrier" will not do ANYTHING to stop them. Lets PLEASE not entirely succumb to PC America. Thanks you.
Chad	Steady	Please use this immense amount of money to improve mental health services, provide easier access to mental health medication, or soemthing more pro-active.
PRESTON	STEDMAN	No option is particularly pleasing.
PRESTON	STEDMAN	Larger "screens" could effect seabirds as they would fly into them.
PRESTON	STEDMAN	All alternatives would compromise the historic nature of " the Gate "
PRESTON	STEDMAN	what does this mean , anyway ? All " cultures " marvel at this wonder , so what DO YOU MEAN ?
PRESTON	STEDMAN	see above ...
PRESTON	STEDMAN	no comment
PRESTON	STEDMAN	no comment

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Mike	Stills	This is STUPID. As a 2nd generation San Franciscan, I feel very strongly about preserving historic parts of the city, particularly the Golden Gate Bridge. All of the built options above will significantly degrade the aesthetics of the Bridge. It is not clear to me that will actually lower the suicide rate. I would rather not trade the historical and aesthetic appeal of the bridge for an uncertain benefit to a few disturbed folks.
Jonathan	Stock	
lynne	stocker	I object to any modification at all. The beauty of our historic bridge cannot be compromised. We should not be forced to peer through bars to be able to enjoy the views from this national treasure.
Alexandra	Stokes	Anybody who has been touched by the suicide of someone jumping off the GG Bridge will say, build a barrier. Anybody who has not, ie the majority, will say it's too ugly, expensive, etc. Please prevent these people from having to experience the suicide of a loved one and changing their minds.
Deb	Stone	Alternatives 1A through 2B are acceptable. A net is not sufficient. Do we want to save people's lives or do we want to worry about aesthetics. It's a pretty embarrassing discussion frankly.
tasha	storm	Maybe close the walk way as they do parks. No access before sunrise or after sunset?
tasha	storm	I do not think that it is the bridge's fault people choose to end their life. I think that everyone is drawn to its beauty in the current state it is in. I do not think we should change it at all. If someone is going to end their life and doing it from the bridge brings them some glint of joy or peace....
Thomas	Stout	Adding the vertical deterrent would solve the problem of the current handrail being easily climbed/jumped over without adding the on-going need maintenance and expense for a "retrieval crew" to collect those who choose to jump from the proposed netting system. The goal here is to deter, not 100 percent prevent, and I think it's prudent not to incur a further on-going expense beyond the initial installation.
David	Stovel	like the 75% majority say,, let em jump. Wasting 50 million is sheer insanity. The clown directors at work again..spend money uselessly and raise tolls
Tom	Strand	Daily commuter. Physical barrier will simply push the problem downstream to another location. At the exhorbitant penalty of creating a continual visual reminder of the ignoble platform that a tiny minority choose to use the bridge for.

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W	T	<p>Why should the taxpayer be burdened with building any barrier. The cost of the build and the upkeep will go on forever. I am not responsible for the people with problems who think this is an answer for them. I feel for the families left behind but in no way should the taxpayer have to prevent this from happening. We are all responsible for our own actions.</p>
Janice Janice	Tagart Tagart	<p>All design alternatives are very acceptable. Please build a barrier.</p>
Jessica Jessica	Tai Tai	<p>All five designs are acceptable. Regardless of aesthetic disadvantages, a suicide barrier is necessary. The statistics are there and it is nonsensical to state that a barrier would not help or is not needed. There are suicide prevention resources already available. Suicidal people often will not use these sources unless forced. The rails could do just this. I think option 1A is the best because it keeps with the bridge's design, is aesthetically cohesive with the view (transparent panels allow for photo ops for tourists, etc.) It also keeps the historical existing handrails. I was a close friend of Casey Brooks. It is so important to have these rails. It will help in preventing such tragedies. The public should have a say in this.</p>

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fred	tam	the bridge and the location is beautiful. it is why it is chosen, i guess one should make it ugly and horrific to get rid of the romance to prevent suicides no?
Carolyn	Tambwekar	anyways, the claimed science supporting such barriers is rather dodgy and selective. most jumps are off buildings, and this is simply going to move people to other options, and this is an incredibly misguided waste of money.
		Any of 1 or 2. 3 allows an individual to get over the railing.
		In 1975, we were recent migrants to California. My mother and I took a bus bound for Sausalito. Crossing the bridge, we passed an empty car surrounded by police, etc. I realized it was a suicide jumper and my first reaction to my mother was how low the railings were and they should be higher. The man sitting in front on us said that would spoil "the most beautiful view in the world".
		The bridge is a manmade structure. Human life precious. I would not like to have the knowledge that I had knowingly not done all that could be done to make it next to impossible for a depressed person to act on a self-destructive impulse. Follow your hearts and conscience.
Carolyn	Tambwekar	I think that these people (who jumped) have depression or subclinical depression. Jump off GGB is just one of the many methods to kill themselves. If the barrier is in place, they will find other ways to commit suicide. It is more important to treat their depression than to put a barrier on GGB which will not stop them from suicide. It will only deprive the enjoyment for millions of people worldwide. Not to mention the cost of building such barrier.
Z	Tang	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable.A There are absolutely no mitigationsA available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
Bren	Taylor	

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Robin	Unruh	<p>DON'T SPEND THE MONEY!!!!</p> <p>LET THEM JUMP!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p>
Julia	Uota	<p>The visual aesthetic of the bridge would be damaged by any system involving the handrail.</p> <p>They're oppressive. It's like being in a jail or a zoo. One of the great things about the GG Bridge is how open it still is in a world where everything is fenced off and off limits. The idea of glass panels is nice, but they're going to become a magnet for graffiti like they do everywhere in the city, and, without constant replacing, add to the "jail" feeling to the barrier. Enclosing the bridge with a safety cage will destroy the attraction of the bridge for people from all over the world, as well as for those of us who enjoy using the bridge on a daily bases.</p>
Christian	Utzman	<p>My brother committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge 11 years ago. The Bridge did not kill my brother, my brother killed himself. If there was a barrier, he would have climbed over it, turned around and jumped into traffic, or found some other location to commit suicide (like leaping in front of Amtrak). The Golden Gate Bridge is an invaluable asset to the tourist commerce of San Francisco and Marin, and I would hate to see the actions of the few destroy such a wonderful historic land mark. There are thousands of commuters, bicyclists, and tourists who use the bridge every day without incident, and thousands of businesses who depend on the attraction of bridge to earn a living. Please don't let my brother's actions punish the rest of us who are still alive.</p>
Christian Ann Leslie	Utzman Uzdavinis	<p>The net system (3) seems like it also may have a negative impact on birds. I'm curious to know if 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B have more maintenance & cleaning needs than the current system. Based on the observation that it seems that 1A, 1B & 2B have more surface area than the current railing I would think they would require more work, paint & chemicals. Of any of the systems 2A seems to have the least amount of surface area and therefore would require the least amount of work, paint & chemicals to maintain.</p>

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Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	The beauty of the bridge and the views from it an of it should be preserved. The barrier that has been installed between the sidewalk and roadway already detract from the views and design. My preference is leave the bridge as it is and not build any system.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	If the consensus of the board and public is to build a system, 2A which replaces the handrail with a vertical system is has the least impact on the view and aesthetics of the bridge. Options 1B & 2B make the bridge feel like a prison, option 1A has too much visual clutter, option 3 looks like a maintenance operation.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	The cost associated with building any of the options is undesirable in my estimation and is another reason why I feel that we should not build any system.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	If the decision is made to move forward and money is to be expended on any system then we need to take the significance of the bridge into consideration and chose the options which is least distracting and most aesthetically appealing and maintains the cultural significance of the bridge. This option would be 2A.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	While I can appreciated the desire for increased public safety, I think that this is erring too far in protectionism given the litigious nature of our society today. Any of the build option detract from the views from the bridge and impact the land use & recreation on and around the bridge.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	No build is my chose due to the fact that it wouldn't change the land use and recreation on and around the bridge. If the decision is made to build a system than option 2A has the least impact on land use and recreation on and around the bridge.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	I'm concerned about any cleaning & maintenance needed for any of the alternatives that would have a greater impact than the current railing. The net system (3) seems like it also may have a negative impact on birds.
T	Valentine	Cultural resource comment - Spend 1/50th the money on a suicide prevention kiosk on either side of the bridge if you must. If someone's daughter doesn't want the help she doesn't want the help. The entire society doesn't have to ruin all the beautiful inspirational places because these people are interpreting that inspirational impulse for suicide. Someone else needed the view to get through school or take a chance on love. You just aren't talking about them. It isn't about the bridge and suicide. It is about inspiration of the human spirit given by a high godlike place. You'd have to destroy all the beautiful high places in the country and fence in every cliff and viewpoint. What about the rest of us? What about the rest of humanity?

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Ron	Valentino	I understand the need to protect lives but the bridge is an icon and I think its best to retain as much as the original design as possible. Part of the beauty of walking across the bridge is seeing the amazing vistas. Blocking views with a barrier would really impact that experience.
Ron	Valentino	I think the net is the best option. It would not destroy the views.
julie	Valenzuela	its better to add vertical system to outside handrail.
Diane	Vallon	Please do this so that the temptation is gone
gervaise	valpey	I believe a barrier would be a hindrance. Public resources should not be spent on this if anything a median should be added to the bridge to provide safety to people who are often involuntary victims - suicide will continue regardless of the bridge.
Christine	Van Dyke	The visual impacts of all 5 Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are no mitigations available for the Building Alternatives. It will completely run the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the bridge
Randall	Van Nostrand	the study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in the the No Build alternative was not evaluated equally. The No Build should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Directors 11 criteria. The No Build already stops 70%-80% of the people. The No Build deserves to be studied to see what can be done for less money.
Randall	Van Nostrand	As a psychiatrist, I feel a suicide barrier is mandatory.
Frank	Van Orden	It's about time we grew up and did something about his horrendous problem. Tourists will always find a way to take pictures; the views will always be great. But it only takes a minute of irrational thinking to end a life--any sort of barrier will give people time to think.
Melani	Van Petten	Stop Death by Suicide on the Bridge! Seattle did it at the Space Needle and it works. New York did it at the Empire State Building and it works. The folks who do not want it need to get educated on this issue. I do not want to ruin the wonderful view either but ir WILL Stop Suicide from the bridge. It is the most famous attractive nuisance for Suicide in the world.
Tim	Van Raam	A missing piece of information is cost. I like alternative 3 the best as it doesn't impinge on the aesthetics of the current handrail height, yet provides a physical barrier to suicide. But is it (substantially) more expensive than option 1A? That would impact my vote.
May	van Scherrenburg	

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

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First	Last	Comment
May Erik	van Scherrenburg Vance	A suicide barrier of SOME sort is critical; other historical/tourist sites in the United States (such as the empire state building) have had such barriers in place for quite some time, the GGB is overdue. There is no option that does not affect the aesthetic of the bridge. This is one of the most beautiful monuments in our nation and it is shameful that it might be impeded because of a few people.
Erik	Vance	The most breathtaking part of the bridge experience is the ability to look out and then look down off the bridge. Certainly a fence either beyond the handrail or at the handrail ruin that feeling of freedom.
Erik	Vance	A historical monument is not above modification for safety's sake. But you had better have a VERY good reason to it. And the more important the monument, the better the reason. This one is not even close.
Erik	Vance	This entire process seems driven by the families of the dead. And while my heart goes out to those people, do we really want them deciding policy? It's only natural to reach out and try to make the senseless death of a loved one mean something. But this i
		All of the alternatives change the appearance of the bridge for the worse and lessen its attractiveness to the millions of walkers, hikers, bikers, and drivers who use the bridge.
Lisa Lisa	Vandenberg Vandenberg	Each is completely hideous.
		If people are going to kill themselves they will find a way. There is no need to ruin a beautiful bridge in a vain attempt to stop them. The bridge is used without incident by millions of people each year. Decisions should be made based on the best interests of all and not on the purported needs of a few. The barriers are unnecessary and will interfere with public enjoyment of the bridge. (please move this to the correct category if it is not a "cultural" comment.)
Lisa	Vandenberg	The barriers will all negatively impact the public use and enjoyment of the walkways on the bridge
Lisa Alex	Vandenberg Vanderburgh	As a backpacker in the Marin Headlands for the last 20 years, I feel that the great beauty of the area will be in no way diminished by any of the options and they will help prevent needless tragedy.
Bernard	Vandermolen	A suicide barrier will cost millions and not prevent a single suicide. Proponents of this plan fail to realize that humans are extremely clever and can find a way around anything. Building this barrier is simply a way to make us feel better about ourselves.

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Michael	Weiss	Please don't let public policy and the future of this national landmark be dictated, hijacked, or even informed by suicidal people, their advocates, or their psychologists whose job it is to try and prevent the suicide.
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		A barrier needs to be built as soon as possible. Other monuments have them in place: Eiffel Tower, Empire State Bldg., and they are very effective. It's an easy out and far too tempting for a vulnerable person, particularly hormonal and emotional teens.
		The choices for barrier design are all good. just pick one.
melissa	welles	I am actually scared of the net alternative. People could still get hurt, and it doesn't really deter crazy people who want to jump. So what if the net catches them? What if they jumped head first and broke their neck? That's not only unsafe, but kind of gross.
Lynn	Wellman	
Jane	Wellman	Don't change original rails - part of the historical bridge.

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Laura	Winfrey	Alt 1B seems most effective relative to purpose of retrofit. With curled top it becomes virtually impossible to scale. Net alternative seems porrest option- why not jump off/out of net? The frequent numbers of suicides from the bridge detracts from the beauty and inspiration relative to the bridge. The fix will not change the look of the bridge relative to the whole structure!
Amber	Wipfler	They look terrible. They destroy the beauty of the bridge. All that matters to me is the prevention of even one impulsive suicide.
CB	Wiser MD	-Celeste Wiser, M.D. Child and Adult Psychiatry UC Davis Medical Center Sacramento, CA (but resident of Napa)
Joseph	Wisniewski	Let other organizations than the transit authority work to reduce suicides. The bridge is not the source of suicidal thoughts and mental illness. Less than 3% of the suicides in the Bay Area are off the Golden Gate Bridge. We need to stop teaching hopelessness in our homes and schools to our young. Teachers are teaching kids that manmade Global warming is going to kill everybody which 35,000 of the top scientist in the world say is not true. Our teachers encourage our teens to focus on history, arts and basket weaving which they will never make a living doing. We need to teach kids math, science, business, finance and skilled trades. Kids are being programmed with negative stories or global warming and taught that they will never achieve what their parents have. Instead of giving them the tools to achieve more than this generation and their grandparent's generation ever dreamed of. Bridges don't put the hopelessness in the minds of people who are mentally ill enough to kill themselves, our schools and liberal media causes kids to feel the only solution is killing themselves.
Joseph	Wisniewski	They are all ugly.
Ray	Wisniewski	Option 3 (Net) is least visible, but still not needed.
Ray	Wisniewski	All options destroy the historic integrity of the bridge.
Ray	Wisniewski	Don't do anything.
Ray	Wisniewski	

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Paul	Yasinitsky	A suicidal individual will, either, find a different way, or circumvent the barrier, jump to the netting and crawl over to their death, jump near land, that would be much more messy, or just go to a different bridge or high place. Leave the aesthetics of the bridge alone.
Yehiel	Yisrael	My friends, family and I feel strongly that we must add adequate physical restraints to help prevent suicides from our beloved Golden Gate Bridge. We should have made these safety improvements many years ago, in light of the obvious need. We must retain the classic Art Deco style, naturally. More cameras should also help to warn police of the indication to intervene to save lives. Thanks for acting on this project ASAP.
Setsuko	Yoshimura	The bridge should be left as it is.
Randall	Young	May want to include some historical information about the bridge and restore some of the military sites around on bridge property.
Derek	Young	I think the addition of a barrier that is taller than all people would ruin the beautiful views for the thousands of tourists that visit that wonderful site every year to save approximately 20 people who actually want to kill themselves there each year. This is a bad tradeoff.
Marguerite Ann	Young	I believe if you truly have a interest in suicide prevention, the moneys used for research on GG Bridge, etc, should not be spent on a barrier but spent toward research on Mental Health Issues and toward MENTAL HEALTH CARE!
Meredith	Young	As tragic as the GG suicides are , preventing here at great cost , financial & aesthetic - would just drive the despondent suicide to other structures or bridges over traffic vs water. It is impossible to 'suicide-proof' a city .

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First	Last	Comment
Tracy	Zeltser	It will impact the breeze and air quality on the walkway - which actually really sucks. Think of the sound quality too, it's already very difficult to talk to the person right next to you - but with the sound bouncing off these barriers, you won't be able to hear a thing!
Tracy	Zeltser	I think there are better things to do with the considerable amount of energy and time put into this project. People who want to jump off the bridge, will only find a picturesque cliff or another bridge somewhere to jump from. This is not going to deter this kind of behaviour in general, only (and only maybe) from the GGB.
Tracy	Zeltser	The specific barriers in question (clear glass or plexiglass I assume) will have to be rigorously maintained in order to keep them clear enough to see through every day. Because of the sea, these big clear panels will be an impossible maintenance task... what kind of price point is going to go onto that?
Tracy	Zeltser	Interesting that SF will go to such lengths to avoid the bad PR that suicide off the GGB brings. Is the PR really that bad? How often does it really happen? Does it cost the city money when someone does make a jump? Who is at risk here, legally?
Tracy	Zeltser	see general comments.
Tracy	Zeltser	I think the world will laugh at a city that goes to such lengths for a few people that they can't help, and ruin a national landmark because of it.
Tracy	Zeltser	Biological Resources??? Are the birds going to be affected?
Tracy	Zeltser	Mightn't the birds bang into these barriers - do a study!
Tracy	Zeltser	I'm so sorry - I jumped in and made my comments without reading the environmental analysis - this is an unbiased opinion, I hope it is helpful in some way.
David	Zemke	Don't ruin the visual appeal of this major international landmark to "help protect people from themselves". No barriers, please!
David	Zemke	Don't let a few people's pain and misdirected desire to prevent suicides from the bridge to aesthetically ruin this landmark for thousands of people. If you spent \$50 million on suicide prevention programs think of all the other people that you *could* save that *don't* jump off the bridge. This is a huge misappropriation of our time and money. Isn't California in the middle of a budgetary crisis right now?
Jane	Zhang	Adding vertical or horizontal systems to the bridge is damaging to the historical landmark and the great view of the city.

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