



CITY OF OAKLAND



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Public Works Agency

May 14, 1998

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Mr. Joseph Nicoletti
URS/John A. Blume and Associates
Chair - Bay Bridge Design Task Force
100 California Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Nicoletti:

I am writing to you to express our concern and displeasure with the fact that Caltrans and the design consultants have not developed any viable alternatives to improve the appearance of the viaduct section of the new Bay Bridge Eastern Span.

The City of Oakland on several occasions over the past year has expressed its desire that the new bridge be built as a signature bridge that would reflect a world class design and establish a sense of gateway and place for the East Bay.

The designs to date have only focused on the main towers and spans near Yerba Buena Island. About 85% percent of the bridge still remains a viaduct with no more design flair than a freeway overpass. In our view this is totally unacceptable. We have expressed our concern about this matter in letters to the Task Force and in public meetings, (letters to Mary King 5/15/97 and 7/29/97, MTC meeting 7/30/97, Project Development Team meetings 10/24/97 and 11/4/97).

On May 7, 1998, members of the City staff including the Mayor's office, met with Caltrans and the design consultants and found that little or no work had been done to improve the architectural features on the viaduct section of the bridge so that those viewing the bridge had a sense of a world class design. In addition, people travelling on the bridge will have a sense of being on a freeway overpass not a bridge. Therefore, it appears that the viaduct design features have not been given any serious consideration by the designers to date. In our opinion, it is unreasonable to approve a bridge design without addressing the viaduct section.

Caltrans is required to mitigate the demolition of the existing eastern span of the historic Bay Bridge. Clearly the current eastern span has more bridge-like architectural features than the proposed new span and in our opinion does not mitigate or replace the loss of the design features of the historic bridge.

It is very important to the City that these issues are addressed. We are asking that EDAP, Caltrans and the design consultants give more consideration to this problem and develop several alternatives to enhance the design of the viaduct section of the bridge.

We understand that additional bridge structure is not needed to meet the structural requirements of the bridge or viaduct and that additional bridge features would be at additional cost. But certainly there are design alternatives that could be added to the existing viaduct structure that would be cost effective and would add to the "signature" and world class design mandate that has been given this bridge.

We ask that these alternatives be developed and presented to the Task Force before it makes its final decision on the bridge design in June. Thank you for your consideration. Please call me at (510) 238-6256 if you wish to meet and discuss the matter further.



TERRY E. ROBERTS
Director, Public Works Agency

c: **Engineering and Design Advisory Panel**

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