

Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent System Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

October 2008

COMMENT CHARACTERIZATION

Formal Comment Period: July 8 to August 25, 2008

Throughout the comment period, **3,458** individuals, organizations and agencies provided **5,870** discrete or separate comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA).

The 3,458 individuals, organizations and agencies used the following methods to submit comments:

1. 2,823 came in via the comment form on the project website www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org
2. 44 were submitted via U.S. mail
3. 134 came via Email to the District
4. 15 were submitted using comment cards at one of the two public meetings held on July 22 in San Rafael and July 23 in San Francisco
5. 442 individuals provided testimony at the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) Board of Directors meeting on August 22, 2008, the majority of which was in the form of a petition

Non-DEIR/EA Comments

Approximately 96.4% of the 5,870 discrete comments received during the public comment period were not directed specifically at the environmental document per se.

The non-DEIR/EA comments fell within the following general themes.

1. 1,497 or 25.5% were General Comments Related to Suicide
 - Related personal stories of friends, loved ones who had committed suicide
 - Supported belief that people will find a way to commit suicide, if not on the Bridge then somewhere else
 - Supported the belief that a suicide deterrent is absolutely necessary. That the District has a moral duty to erect a barrier.
 - Expressed frustration that majority would suffer because of minority mental health problems

- Expressed belief that suicide is impulsive and barriers reduce suicides
 - Did not think that suicide something the City should be responsible for
2. 2,965 or 50.5% were Comments on Project Alternatives
- Expressed opinions (for and against) one or multiple alternatives
 - Expressed opinion on need for a barrier (for and against)
 - Suggested different ideas for alternatives
3. 878 or 15% Comments Related to Cost and Use of Funds
- Should use funds for mental health programs
 - Funding should be used to construct moveable median first
 - Barrier was a poor use of public funds
 - Should use funds to increase staff patrolling Bridge
 - Economy in no shape to be spending this kind of money
 - Redirect funds to schools
4. 318 or 5.4% were Other Comments that were not relevant

DEIR/EA Comments

3.6% of total comments received or 212 comments that were received pertained to the adequacy of the DEIR/EA and generally included comments about:

- No-build alternative was not adequately considered
- Supported performing additional bird studies
- A few addressed historic and cultural; and preservation issues