

**Subject:** Fwd: URGENT: CalTrans project re piers retention  
**Date:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 10:52:19 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Cindy Margulis <cmargulis@goldengateaudubon.org>  
**To:** Coates-Maldoon, Rebecca@BCDC <rebecca.coates-maldoon@bcdcd.ca.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Cindy Margulis <cmargulis@goldengateaudubon.org>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 19, 2018 at 10:38 AM  
**Subject:** URGENT: CalTrans project re piers retention  
**To:** rebecca.coates-maldoon@bcdcd.ca.go

Dear Rebecca:

I am writing on behalf of the 7,000+ members of Golden Gate Audubon in the central Bay region.

Caltrans owes a proper mitigation for adverse impacts to Bay Area birds associated with the seismic upgrade to the Bay Bridge and the removal of the Eastern Span.

We did not have sufficient notice to provide a thorough and detailed comment letter on the proposal coming before BCDC today. We respectfully request that BCDC advise Caltrans to complete its long deferred and owed mitigation for adverse impacts to Bay Area birds **FIRST**, before being authorized to add any additional large structures atop the old pier foundations.

The reason is that our advice to CalTrans had been to retain the old pier foundations NOT to provide additional public access, but actually to provide very important and bird habitat, especially shorebird roosting habitat atop some of those piers, AWAY from where people on land could disturb the birds... but where the public could thoroughly enjoy viewing the birds. The bridge is on a site of hemispheric significance for migratory shorebirds and a site of global significance for waterfowl. That story, and those birds, should be part of what is interpreted from the bike path viewing deck and from the future gateway park at the eastern end of the bridge.

We wish to further discuss a complete and thorough mitigation potential with Caltrans, rather than have BCDC authorize the wrong use of the remaining old bridge pier foundations. We will gladly resume discussions with CalTrans about retaining the pier foundations which will significantly increased bird usage of the Gateway Park area, and provide for tremendous visitor enjoyment, overlooks of the birds without disturbing them, and possibly accommodate additional wildlife and human benefits through interpretive panels, viewing via the bike path on the new bridge, etc.

I am sorry to not be able to provide a longer explanation at this short notice, but I assure you that we will eagerly work with Caltrans and their consultants, AECOM. The original discussions we'd held with over the winter showed great promise in understanding how a long deferred mitigation for birds could be achieved, a significant wildlife enhancement added to the Gateway Park and overlook trail from the new eastern bridge span, without building yet more structures over Bay waters.

We ask BCDC completely defer consideration of the CalTrans plan due to be presented today. We will meet to discuss the plan that we had discussed with them about using the pier foundations as vital shorebird roosting habitat that's much needed on the Eastern shoreline of the Bay.

Thank you.

Cindy Margulis

---

Cindy Margulis

Executive Director

**Golden Gate Audubon Society**

2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G

Berkeley, CA 94702

Tel: (510) 843-9912

[www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)

---