



Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project

Caltrans • Metro • Port of Long Beach • US Department of Transportation

'Big Pour' Completes Base for First of Two Bridge Towers Construction of two-story 'pile cap' marks major milestone

Sept. 29, 2015

In a highly choreographed event involving a stream of concrete trucks, huge pumps and dozens of workers, contractors today completed a critical "pile cap" that allows crews to start erecting the first of two 515-foot-tall towers for the new bridge under construction at the Port of Long Beach.

From about 8 p.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Tuesday, about 3,200 cubic yards of concrete was poured in and around 2,240 square feet of rebar forms to create a nearly two-story-tall pile cap to serve as a base for a tower at the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project.

"Today's 'big pour' is a significant milestone in the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project and the result of months of planning, preparation and cooperation," said Duane Kenagy, Capital Programs Senior Executive Lead for the Port. "This pile cap will enable us to begin constructing the first signature tower that will rise 515 feet and connect the cables to the road deck."

Visible for miles, the two towers on either side of the Port's Back Channel will be the main features of the cable-stayed bridge, the first of its kind in California. Scheduled for completion



in 2018, the new bridge will one of the tallest of its kind in the United States.

Because of the amount of concrete that was poured, today's pile cap construction operation required much coordination including:

- An elaborate and carefully designed rebar structure built over six weeks to serve as the pile's reinforcing form and to connect 12 completed underground piles into a single unit for the base of the tower.
- Concrete deliveries had to be timed from two plants. More than 320 truckloads of concrete were poured into the pile cap.
- The new bridge will be supported by more than 350 reinforced concrete piles constructed down to 190 feet in the ground. Rising from these piles will be the two towers and more than 90 columns supporting the road deck.

When completed, the new bridge will include six traffic lanes and four emergency shoulders, a higher clearance to accommodate new generations of cargo ships, and the Mark Bixby Memorial Bicycle and Pedestrian Path with scenic overlooks.

The replacement project will allow the Gerald Desmond Bridge to remain in use while the new bridge is under construction. The bridge project is a joint effort of Caltrans and the Port, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

To watch construction live via webcams and for other details, visit www.newgdbridge.com.

Media Contacts:

- Lee Peterson, Port of Long Beach Media Relations, (562) 283-7715 (office), (562) 519-2177 (cell), lee.peterson@polb.com
- Denis Wolcott, Westbound Communications, (213) 200-1563

Follow the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project:



newgdbridge.com



[newgdbridge](https://www.facebook.com/newgdbridge)



[@newgdbridge](https://twitter.com/newgdbridge)



[LBBridgeProject](https://www.youtube.com/LBBridgeProject)