



Bridge Rail Foundation Newsletter

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Stop the Suicides at the Golden Gate Bridge

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Woolsey Leads 14 in House to Support Funding

On May 14, 2009, Rep. Lynn Woolsey requested an amendment to the Transportation Re-Authorization Bill this year that would allow suicide barrier funding under Title 23 of the United States Code.

Speaker Pelosi and the entire Bay Area delegation plus four representatives from Los Angeles and one from Chicago cosigned her request.

This amendment will allow funds for the Golden Gate Bridge net system. Since it is not specific to the Golden Gate -- it will also allow funds for suicide prevention rails and nets where local authorities want to address a suicide problem on other bridges throughout the US.

We understand similar legislation will be proposed in the Senate, where California Senator Barbara Boxer chairs the committee hearing the bill.

BRF volunteers and other suicide prevention advocates are working closely with state Assemblyman Tom Ammiano to coordinate efforts and secure this funding.



Show Your Support--Sign the Petition

BRF Board member Dayna Whitmer is running a new **online petition** to show support for funding the GGB suicide deterrent. Two versions of the petition have been submitted and a third is now gathering signatures.

[Click Here](#) to sign the petition.

Also, Please forward this note to friends and relatives who may wish to add their signature.

[Click here to forward this note](#)



Meanwhile at the Bridge District. . .

We continue to see progress on the suicide deterrent net at the bridge.

The GGB board recently approved some minor design revisions to accommodate the concerns of state authorities.

In addition we hear the final EIR will be out soon--*perhaps within the week.*

. . . and the death toll continues

With the recent death of a man from Tracy, there have been seven confirmed suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge this year.



From Around the World. . .

Across the Pond. . .

". . . "What does seem to work is limiting access to the means of suicide. That was illustrated when coal gas became detoxified in the 1950s — the number of suicides dropped dramatically — when one method of suicide becomes unavailable, people don't automatically turn to another. Nets and safety barriers on bridges work too."

Dr John Connolly
Irish Association of Suicidology
from *Times On Line* (UK). June 3, 2009

And in New Zealand . . .

. . . "Researchers noted that safety barriers to prevent suicide by jumping, and which had been in place for 60 years, were removed from Grafton Bridge in 1996.

After a five-fold increase in the number and rate of suicides from the bridge, improved barriers were [installed] in 2003. Since then, there has been no suicides from the bridge.

Otago Daily Times [NZ]
June 6 2009.

Grafton Bridge Suicide Prevention Railing New Zealand



Photo Credit: ReyGay posted on Flickr

Help Us Fight to Install the Net

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