

Date: October 28, 2020  
Referred by: BATA

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 139

Resolution of appreciation for Dr. Brian Maroney on the occasion of his retirement from the California Department of Transportation.

RE: Resolution of Appreciation Dr. Brian Maroney

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY  
Resolution No. 139

WHEREAS, Dr. Brian Maroney this summer retired from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) after 37 years of public service and an enduring tenure as chief engineer for Caltrans' toll bridge seismic retrofit program; and

WHEREAS, although Brian's civil engineering education at Colorado State University and the University of California, Davis did not include coursework in prognostication, he purportedly in 1983 told his interview panel at the Caltrans Office of Earthquake Engineering: "I'm not looking for a job; I'm looking for a career that means something;" and

WHEREAS, Brian eventually served as Caltrans' chief engineer for one of the most difficult and high-profile construction projects in California history: the \$6.5 billion, state-of-the-art and seismically designed new eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Brian managed numerous other projects during his decades-long career at Caltrans, including seismic retrofits of the Antioch and Dumbarton bridges, several railroad spans and the successful implosion of the historic Bay Bridge's Pier E3, a massive caisson which supported the 1936 cantilevered bridge; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Dr. Maroney was honored with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's "Greta Ericson Distinguished Service Award" due to his unfailing ability and willingness to explain the challenges facing California's building of the new eastern span and how they should best be met; and,

WHEREAS, Brian's presentations to elected officials, the media, legislators, and the public about the Bay Bridge East Span project, though rarely succinct, were technically sharp and always enlivened by abundant exuberance and the use of large, steel props; and

WHEREAS, Brian's Midwestern upbringing taught him values of practicality and frugality, and prepared him well to be a dedicated steward of public funds who made sound engineering judgments and executed them in practical and cost-effective ways – likely saving tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Maroney, a consummate teacher who gave his time freely to anyone who had questions, taught engineering as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of California, Davis, while also informally mentoring many young engineers in the toll bridge seismic retrofit program; and

WHEREAS, Brian commuted frequently between Davis and the Bay Area for project meetings and presentations, his Ford Taurus packed to the gill with rolls of engineering plans and binders bulging with reference materials; and

WHEREAS, Brian was an integral part of the Bay Bridge seismic retrofit project from the beginning to the end -- from his on-site assessment of the failed Cypress structure on the morning after the Loma Prieta earthquake, to the ribbon-cutting of new, public waterfront space built on salvaged bridge piers; and

WHEREAS, for a person with great responsibility and influence, Brian rarely sought the spotlight and chose instead to prop others up while promoting teamwork and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Brian is truly a living, and loved, legend of the Bay Bridge project, having put his heart into everything he touched – and having touched nearly every aspect of the project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Bay Area Toll Authority wishes to thank Brian for his commitment, his diligence, his tenacity, his humility and his passion in delivering for the Bay Area a seismically resilient and iconic San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span, and wishes him a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement.

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

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Scott Haggerty, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Bay Area Toll Authority at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California and at other remote locations, on October 28, 2020.