

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - District 4 Toll Bridge Program

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September 17, 2009

Contract No. 04-0120F4
04-SF-80-13.2 / 13.9
Self-Anchored Suspension Bridge
Letter No. 05.03.08-000029

Michael Flowers
Project Executive
American Bridge/Fluor, A JV
375 Burma Road
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Michael Flowers,

Unauthorized Repairs

The Department has witnessed ZPMC repairing cracks without prior notification to, or authorization from, the Engineer via the 'Critical Weld Repair' process. The Department is concerned that these incidents may represent only a small number of unauthorized repairs carried out by ZPMC without prior notification to the Engineer.

The attached reports include examples of such incidents:

- NCR# ZPMC-240
- Incident Report #363, #364, #662, #701, #717

Note that NCR # ZPMC-240 was transmitted to ABF via NCT 05.03.06-000231 and the Incident Reports were verbally communicated to ABF, as noted in each report.

ABF is reminded of the seriousness of this practice as it completely undermines the intention of the Quality Assurance Process specified for this project. The requirement for a random percentage of NDT weld inspection is based on the weld procedure being appropriate for the particular joint, and on the understanding that the procedure will be followed. If welds are cracking, it is very important for this to be highlighted in order to understand what failed with the QA/QC process. It follows then, that the random percentage of NDT inspection will be inadequate if the root cause of the problem is not first identified and then corrected immediately.

Please direct ZPMC to stop this unauthorized repair practice immediately. Your personal attention to this issue is requested.

Please contact Doug Coe if you would like to discuss further or have any questions.

Sincerely,

GARY PURSELL
Resident Engineer

Attachment

cc: R. Morrow, P. Siegenthaler
File: 05.03.08