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San Francisco's New Air Traffic Control Tower Named Year's Most Outstanding Engineering Triumph *Annual Engineering Excellence Awards Showcased World's Best Engineering Efforts*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — San Francisco International Airport's gleaming new air traffic control tower has won the 2016 "Grand Conceptor" Award signifying the year's most outstanding engineering achievement in the 49th Annual Engineering Excellence Awards—a national juried competition sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

More than 500 attended Tuesday night's black-tie Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in Washington, D.C. hosted by Comedian Rex Havens and recognizing 151 preeminent engineering accomplishments from throughout the nation and the world.

Designed by engineering firm Walter P Moore, the dazzling new air traffic control tower serving the nation's seventh busiest airport features pioneering seismic engineering that provides both toppling resistance and a self-centering capability during an earthquake.

The previous tower was temporarily knocked out of commission during the 6.9 magnitude 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake compromising air safety. The new tower features a cast-in-place; reinforced concrete core cylinder with an innovative vertical post-tensioning system to withstand a 7.5 magnitude earthquake. When large seismic forces cause the core to bend, the post-tensioning strands will respond by applying a clamping force to snap the tower back to its initial position. The tower design also utilizes a tuned mass damping system—two 40,000-pound steel damper blocks installed below the cab — to limit sway of the slender tower during high winds common in the region, and to increase comfort of air traffic controllers.

The new San Francisco Air Traffic Control Tower joins the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span (2015); Wacker Drive/Congress Parkway Reconstruction (Chicago 2014); Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, (Kansas City, 2013); Lake Borgne Storm Surge Barrier (New Orleans, 2012) and the Hoover Dam Bypass (2011) as recent distinguished ACEC Grand Conceptor Award winners.

Other Top 2016 Winners were:

Grand Awards (Project and Engineering Firm):

- The 606, Chicago, IL, by Collins Engineers, Inc. & TranSystems;
- WaterHub at Emory, Atlanta, GA, by McKim & Creed;

- Manhattan Bridge Rehabilitation of Cables and Suspenders, New York, NY, by Weidlinger Associates;
- No. 7 Line Subway Extension, New York, NY, by WSP | ParsonsBrinckerhoff;
- Biosolids Management Program, Washington, D.C., by CDM Smith;
- Harnessing Geothermal Power for Airports, Maine, NY, by McFarland-Johnson;
- Rehabilitation of Gilboa Dam, Gilboa, NY, by Gannett Fleming & Hazen and Sawyer

2016 Honor Awards (Project and Engineering Firm):

- Onsite Wastewater Nitrogen Reduction Strategies, Tallahassee, FL – Hazen and Sawyer;
- Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO – KL&A, Inc.;
- Fish Lift System for Lake Sturgeon Passage, Menominee, MI – Kleinschmidt Associates;
- The Willow School: Health, Wellness & Nutrition Center, Gladstone, NJ— Loring Consulting Engineers, Inc.;
- Bay Tunnel, Menlo Park to Newark, CA — McMillan Jacobs Associates;
- Manchester Stormwater Park, Manchester, WA – Parametrix;
- Target Field Station, Minneapolis, MN – Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.;
- I-495/I-85 Interchange Design-Build, Charlotte, NC – STV;
- Port Mann Bridge Highway 1 Improvement, Vancouver, B.C. – T.Y. Lin International;
- IH 635/The LBJ Managed Lanes, Dallas, TX, by Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc.;
- Tilikum Crossing, Portland, OR – T.Y. Lin International and HNTB;
- CREATE P1 - Englewood Flyover, Chicago, IL – TranSystems and Benesch;
- Bay Bridge Cable Dehumidification, Anne Arundel, Queen Anne (MD) Counties – AECOM;
- Bruce C. Bolling Building, Boston, MA – Arup;
- Daniel K. Inouye Fighter Squadron Operations Aircraft Maintenance Facility, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI – Burns and McDonnell; and
- State-of-the-Art Nitrogen Upgrade Program, Alexandria, VA – CH2M.

For further information about the 49th annual ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards program, contact Alan D. Crockett at 202-682-4301 or by email at acrockett@acec.org

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing nearly 5,200 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, water and energy infrastructure, along with environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.