



SF Picks Design for Tallest Skyscraper On West Coast

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SAN FRANCISCO - In about seven years the look of downtown San Francisco could be quite different, with a new skyscraper close to the height of the Empire State Building dominating the scene, NBC11's Lisa Bernard reported Thursday.

The board of directors of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) has made a final decision as to which tower/terminal proposal will get exclusive negotiating rights with the city.

The front-runner was an obelisk-shaped structure proposed by the firm of Pelli Clark Pelli Architects and Hines.

The TJPA picked the Pelli-Hines proposal, Bernard said. *SF Picks Design For Possible Tallest Tower On West Coast*

The Pelli-Hines plan already earned a unanimous endorsement from an advisory panel to the TJPA.

It is a 1,200-foot office tower, transit terminal and park.

"The selection of Pelli and Hines to build this transit hub and tower is a testament to the values, the vision and the excitement of San Francisco and the entire Bay Area region," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "We look forward to continuing the planning process and finally realizing the more than 20-year vision of a central transit station connecting our City with the region, state and country."

"We are thrilled to team up with Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects/Hines to make the Transbay Transit Center a reality," said TJPA Board Chair Jerry Hill. "Their proposal was a thoughtful consideration about what San Francisco needs in a transit center and in a new landmark tower."

"It is a tremendous honor for our firm to have been selected, especially considering the quality of the other teams and designs," said Gerald D. Hines. "This project includes the most innovative thinking from around the world in the fields of sustainability, transit design and urban planning. It will be one of the great places in San Francisco and a model for other cities"

In November 2006, the TJPA launched an international Design and Development Competition to allow teams from across the globe to submit their vision for the project and compete for the rights to design what could become the Grand Central Station of the West.

Three teams in the final phase of the competition presented their design concepts to the TJPA Board of Directors on August 6, 2007.

The Richard Rodgers Partnership and Forest City Enterprises with MacFarlane Partners submitted a glass and steel tower plus transit terminal.

Skidmore Owings and Merrill and the Rockefeller Group Development Corporation proposed a tower that narrows as it climbs.

New York City's Empire State Building is 1,453 feet to the top of its antennae.

The top of the Pelli-Hines Transbay Tower would stand roughly 1,200 feet, dwarfing the 853 feet Transamerica Pyramid.

The Transbay Transit Center would be built on what is currently the site of San Francisco's dilapidated downtown bus station.

Money from the lease or sale of the land would help finance the estimated \$938 million cost of building a new terminal and related structures, according to city leaders.

The transit center will accommodate eight regional transportation systems, including Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Caltrain, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority, Golden Gate Transit, San Mateo County Transit District, Greyhound, Bay Area Rapid Transit and the future California High-Speed Rail.

California High Speed Rail promises to reduce travel between San Francisco and Los Angeles to two and a half hours, according to officials.

The design would not only specify construction for a new transit center, but it would incorporate a new neighborhood with homes, shops and parks adjacent to the transit center, according to the Transbay Joint Authority.

Established in 1977, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects (PCPA) has designed over 80 million square feet of urban, mixed-use projects for government, private, and corporate clients worldwide.

The firm's portfolio includes some of the world's largest private developments: Canary Wharf in London, World Financial Center in New York, International Finance Centre in Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur City Center in Malaysia