

## Kary Witt's Travel Expenses and Toll Increases

Did you know that Golden Gate Bridge Manager Kary Witt has traveled all over the world with the Golden Gate Bridge District picking up tens of thousands of dollars in expenses - even while laying off hundreds of workers and increasing your tolls?

According to information provided by the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District to [Golden Gate Waste](#), Witt went on eighteen different trips from 2009 through 2011 and the Bridge District picked up almost \$20,000 in expenses.<sup>1</sup>

| LOCATION                    | DATE    | REG FEE | HOTEL      | TRANSP.  | MEALS   | TOTAL EXPENSE |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|------------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Fort Lauderdale             | 1/2009  | -       | \$1,005.54 | \$377.80 | \$37.91 | \$1,421.25    |
| Sydney/Melbourne, Australia | 3/2009  | -       | -          | 299.78   | 129.08  | 428.86        |
| Krakow, Poland              | 5/2009  | -       |            | 85.71    | 64.67   | 150.38        |
| Tampa Bay, FL               | 6/2009  | -       | 757.12     | 594.40   | 18.00   | 1,369.52      |
| Denver                      | 7/2009  | -       | 1,274.82   | 528.80   | 78.87   | 1,882.49      |
| Chicago                     | 9/2009  | -       | -          | 498.60   | -       | 498.60        |
| St Louis                    | 10/2009 | -       | 555.66     | 624.60   | 114.43  | 1,294.69      |
| Sao Paulo, Brazil           | 11/2009 | -       | -          | 75.60    | -       | 75.60         |
| Washington, DC              | 12/2009 | -       | 29.98      | 385.40   | 9.00    | 424.38        |
| Sarasota, FL                | 1/2010  | -       | 1,105.56   | 418.40   | 42.15   | 1,566.11      |
| Washington, DC              | 3/2010  | -       | 521.78     | 575.40   | 19.29   | 1,116.47      |
| Boston                      | 5/2010  | 575.00  | 1,572.54   | 461.45   | 49.40   | 2,658.39      |
| Chicago                     | 7/2010  | -       | 762.27     | 868.92   | 81.76   | 1,712.95      |
| Denver                      | 8/2010  | -       | 178.22     | 505.22   | 34.43   | 717.87        |
| San Diego                   | 9/2010  | 400.00  | -          | 247.62   | 114.41  | 762.03        |
| Washington, DC              | 11/2010 | -       | -          | 869.63   | 17.21   | 886.84        |
| Jersey City, NJ             | 4/2011  | -       | 796.64     | 557.41   | 16.24   | 1,370.29      |
| Plano, TX                   | 5/2011  | 575.00  | 359.34     | 382.18   | 15.98   | 1,332.50      |

Not included above is a controversial 2003 trip to Paris<sup>2</sup> taken by Witt and other top Bridge officials just days after slashing 140 jobs to deal with a projected budget deficit of \$202 million!<sup>3</sup>

Over the course of the eighteen trips listed above, Witt spent almost 14 weeks traveling. That is over a month of travel a year! Does that make you wonder what's going on at the Golden Gate Bridge while Witt is off traveling?

- **Toll Increases:** Golden Gate Bridge Tolls went up 100% from \$3 to \$6, and carpoolers tolls went from \$0 to \$3 in 2010.
- **Highly-paid Workers Asleep on the Job:** Golden Gate Bridge painters, some of the highest-paid industrial painters in the nation, have recently been found sleeping on the job.
- **Lead Contamination:** Golden Gate Waste has uncovered evidence that ongoing lead scraping projects on the Bridge have repeatedly failed to meet lead removal specifications, putting the public's health at risk.
- **Possible Recontamination After Costly Cleanups:** In October 2011, eyewitnesses saw painters pouring or dropping contaminated materials off the north end containment structure of the bridge repainting project, even after the bridge spent \$13.8 million for lead remediation.

Maybe Witt should be spending more time managing his employees and their poor work practices and less time gallivanting around the world at the public's expense.

The Golden Gate Bridge has always been seen as a symbol of great strength and an engineering marvel; she deserves to be taken care of by the best. The money paid by the public for the Bridge's care should not be wasted on executive travel, sleeping employees, avoidable environmental cleanup and other wasteful practices due to Witt's poor performance as the Bridge Manager. We hope that the Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District will take the appropriate measures to do the right thing, and do what's best for the future of the Golden Gate Bridge, those who enjoy it, and those who use it and pay handsomely for the privilege.

Please [read new articles](#) each week as we unfold the wasteful practices at the Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District management.

<sup>1</sup> GGBH&TD Data, provided via CA Public Records Act request, 8/2/11

<sup>2</sup> "District managers claim they paid for this trip themselves."

<sup>3</sup> "Bridge District Officials Cut 140 Jobs, Go to Paris," [LA Times](#), 10/3/03