

Harbor Safety Committee

of the San Francisco Bay Region

*Mandated by the California Oil Spill
Prevention and Response Act of 1990*

July 31, 2005

Mr. Carlton Moore
OSPR Administrator
Department of Fish and Game
1700 K Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Carlton:

The San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) 2005 Harbor Safety Plan continues to support the Physical Ocean Real Time System (PORTS) in the bay, installed in the late 1990's by NOAA. The Harbor Safety Plan, page 160, states:

“The Harbor Safety Committee urges that the OSPR Administrator support P.O.R.T.S. as a high priority and that OSPR continue to seek and allocate funds to maintain the system.”

In my June 13, 2005 letter to you, I requested that you consult with the Department of Finance to authorize \$200,000 annually from the OSPAF fund for PORTS operations and maintenance for a period of up to three years so that the HSC can pursue permanent funding through state and federal legislation and also fine tune the PORTS system and its budget.

Your June 28, 2005 response implied that OSPR was not interested in seeking OSPAF funds, although there remains an \$8 million surplus in the OSPAF fund, which was identified by a Department of Finance audit as potentially supporting PORTS in San Francisco Bay and Long Beach.

Your letter further stated that PORTS users should proportionally bear the costs of the system. There is a broad and diverse range of PORTS users – the recreational boating community, government agencies, and academia along with the maritime community, and in times of an oil spill, spill responders. The HSC has diligently worked a number of years to provide funding from the users, but has been unsuccessful due to the diversity of the users and identifying sources of funding while still maintaining the support of NOAA to certify the system. The conclusion remains the same as the 1999 PORTS Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee report,

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(which I chaired for OSPR), that the broad public benefit should be borne by the public i.e. state support.

When you and I discussed the PORTS funding issue on July 12, you indicated that you would:

- a) assist the HSC in identifying interim PORTS funding;
- b) acknowledge that the HSC actively reassess and fine tune the system;
- c) work with us to craft state legislation to permanently support PORTS in California harbors.

As you are aware the PORTS system is supported by the deep draft tanker industry, San Francisco Bar Pilots, spill response community, and the local ports and municipalities that benefit from the system. If OSPR is unwilling to help keep this valuable marine resource alive, we should stop wasting time and shut the system down.

You suggested a meeting in early August to begin discussion in this regard. I would suggest that the meeting include Captain Lynn Korwatch and Alan Steinbrugge of the Marine Exchange and Captain Marc Bayer, Chair of the PORTS Work Group, Manager Marine Assurance, Tesoro, representing Marine Oil Terminal Operators. Please call me at (415) 461-4566 to arrange a meeting time

Sincerely,

Joan Lundstrom, Chair
San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee

Cc: San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee
Captain Lynn Korwatch, Marine Exchange
Alan Steinbrugge, Marine Exchange
Raynor Tsneyoshi, Director, Dept. of Boating and Waterways
Ted Mar, OSPR
Jack Geck, OSPR
Mike Coyne, OSPR

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