

# Harbor Safety Committee

of the San Francisco Bay Region

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

June 13, 2005

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

Dear Carlton,

As you're aware San Francisco Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) has serious financial difficulties and without support the system may be shut down before the end of 2005. It has come to our attention that a recent Department of Finance (DOF) Audit noted a surplus of about \$18 million in the Oil Spill Prevention & Administration Fund. The January 1, 2005 DOF audit stated the fund could "provide opportunities for OSPR to strengthen its prevention, readiness, and response activities." The Audit further stated (pg. 33), "The excess fund balance may provide support of Harbor Safety mechanisms such as the PORTS system in San Francisco Bay and Long Beach."

PORTS provides useful information for real-time navigation by helping provide safer and more efficient vessel transits. PORTS is also a tool that is used to generate real-time trajectory modeling for spill response.

The San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee requests you consult with the DOF to authorize \$200,000 annually for PORTS operations and maintenance for a period of up to three years. This would be an expenditure allowed under the government code affecting oil spill prevention and response.

The HSC PORTS Work Group, in close collaboration with the San Francisco Bar Pilots and our local NOAA representative, is reviewing the PORTS system in order to make sure it addresses the needs of the maritime industry. During this review process the Work Group will refine the budget to include improved system reliability, relocation of sensors, and the possible deployment of new equipment. Additionally, we will pursue state and federal legislation for permanent PORTS funding.

Sincerely,

Joan Lundstrom  
Chair, San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee

Cc: Harbor Safety Committee

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