

Harbor Safety Committee

of the San Francisco Bay Region

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

May 8, 2009

Assemblymember Jared Huffman
Marin County Office
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 412
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Support of San Francisco Physical Ocean Real Time System (PORTS)
Upgrade FY 2008-09 Budget Change Proposal

Dear Assemblyman Huffman:

On behalf of the Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) of the San Francisco Bay Region, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your timely intervention with the Department of General Services, to ensure approval of the San Francisco Physical Ocean Real Time System (PORTS) upgrade. The critical upgrade, with an available source of funding, adds sensors at key locations such as the Carquinez Strait, Port of Oakland and Anchorage 9 - an important tool to prevent another devastating oil spill in San Francisco Bay such as the recent Cosco Busan incident.

The Harbor Safety Committee, established by the state legislature almost twenty years ago to make recommendations for safe navigation in the Bay Region, documented the benefit of PORTS to pilots and tug masters navigating the foggiest harbor in the nation. PORTS is also used in determining safe oil and refueling transfers and is widely accessed by academia, governmental agencies and recreational boaters. However, the Department of General Services over many months delayed a final decision of this critical project.

With only two months left in the current fiscal year, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response was unsuccessful in gaining approval. However, after my call to Jenny Callaway, your District Director, you initiated key calls to the Department of General Services, resulting in a signed contract within a few days.

The Harbor Safety Committee values your immediate action which will prevent oil spills from damaging our precious environment.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Lundstrom, Chair, Harbor Safety Committee
Of the San Francisco Bay Region

Cc: Harbor Safety Committee
Pete McIsaac, President, San Francisco Bar Pilots
Steve Edinger, OSPR Administrator

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