



August 23, 2010

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Mayor  
City of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Newsom:

We are writing on behalf of the Planning and Conservation League and Clean Water Action, to express our support for the City's bid to host the 34<sup>th</sup> America's Cup using Port of San Francisco property and berths. The race represents an opportunity to showcase San Francisco Bay to the world, as well as to improve badly deteriorated segments of the San Francisco waterfront.

Sailing and other water-oriented sports are activities that are consistent with the Port's mission. The Burton Act, the Port's Waterfront Land Use Plan and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's *Special Area Plan for the San Francisco Waterfront* encourage the Port to develop exactly this type of water-dependent and visitor-serving use.

We were concerned about proposed efforts to legislate a statutory exemption to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the end of the regular 2009-2010 California legislative session. We appreciate the City's efforts to reach out to the environmental community while this proposal was being contemplated. We are extremely pleased to hear that race sponsors have opted not to pursue this course.

We pledge to engage in any required environmental review pursuant to CEQA for race-related facilities and agreements in a timely manner. We truly believe that working collaboratively we can ensure a timely and thorough CEQA process that protects our natural and cultural resources while respecting the needs of the race sponsors. We are confident that other environmental organizations that care about this project and the waterfront will also assist the City in its efforts to fulfill its race-related CEQA obligations. Finally, we remain open to discussions about how to make the City's bid more competitive and certain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Andolina  
Planning and Conservation League

Jennifer Clary  
Clean Water Action

Warner Chabot  
California League of Conservation Voters

Mark Welther  
Golden Gate Audubon