

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900  
Oakland, CA 94612-2016

t. 510.452.9261  
f. 510.452.9266

[saveSFbay.org](http://saveSFbay.org)

September 12, 2006

The Honorable Irma Anderson, Mayor  
City of Richmond  
P.O. Box 4046  
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Mayor Anderson:

On behalf of Save The Bay's 10,000 members, I write to encourage you and the members of the Richmond City Council not to proceed with plans to investigate development of a marine container terminal at the Wildcat Creek Marsh. The terminal is unwise, unnecessary, infeasible and inconsistent with the best interests of Richmond residents, posing unacceptable ecological threats to San Francisco Bay and the region's quality of life.

Save The Bay is the oldest and largest organization working exclusively to protect and restore San Francisco Bay for the region's quality of life. Save The Bay protects the Bay by waging and winning effective campaigns, restores the Bay by revitalizing wetlands, and celebrates the Bay by creating recreation and educational opportunities for everyone. A marine container terminal at Wildcat Creek Marsh would conflict directly with those objectives. Among the many reasons for halting consideration of the terminal now, before investing any additional time or expense, two are particularly compelling:

#### Dredging

Because the proposed site is shallow and not served by an existing deep-water shipping channel, massive and expensive dredging would be required to create access for modern, deep-draft container ships. Dredging would destroy the largest existing bed of eelgrass in San Francisco Bay, a critical sub-tidal habitat that Save The Bay and others are working to protect and restore. In addition to direct displacement and disturbance of material on the Bay bottom, turbidity impacts of the dredging would harm Bay water quality and exacerbate biological impacts on aquatic species, including fish and benthic organisms. The severe legacy contamination likely present in this material from historic industrial uses would further intensify those impacts. The volumes of material that would need to be dredged far exceed Bay-wide limits on dredge disposal allowed under the Long-Term Management Strategy for dredged material in San Francisco Bay.

#### Protected Wetlands

Wildcat Marsh provides critical habitat for endangered species in a part of San Francisco Bay where much of the tidal marsh has been diked off or filled for development. Recognizing the high natural resource value of Wildcat Marsh, the North Richmond Specific Plan within the city's General Plan protects the area from development. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Bay Plan designates Wildcat Marsh as tidal marsh, and the Richmond Sanitary Landfill site as a potential waterfront park and beach site, not a Port Priority Use Area.



The Honorable Irma Anderson

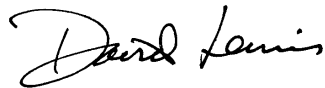
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For these reasons alone, the proposed terminal would face severe regulatory hurdles from local, state and federal agencies, and intense public opposition not only in Richmond, but throughout the entire San Francisco Bay Area. The City of Richmond has some of the most spectacular and important remaining shoreline resources for people and wildlife in the entire San Francisco Bay Area. We encourage you to halt any further consideration of a marine container terminal that would destroy those resources, and instead protect and restore your Bay shoreline for the benefit of the whole region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Lewis  
Executive Director

cc: Richmond City Council  
Port of Richmond  
S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
S.F. Regional Water Quality Control Board  
State Lands Commission