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August 3, 2018

The Honorable Jim Frazier
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Support for AB 2441 – Abandoned Commercial Vessel Removal Funding

Dear Assemblymember Frazier:

Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) writes to express support for AB 2441, which secures a necessary ongoing source of funding for the removal of commercial vessels that have been abandoned or left derelict in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

BPC is a nonprofit, member organization that advocates for sustainable commerce, industry, infrastructure, recreation and the natural environment connected to San Francisco Bay and its watershed. Together with our nearly 150 member organizations, we work diligently to ensure, among other things, that land on the Bay is used wisely and developed in economically and environmentally sound ways.

Among BPC's membership is stakeholders in the region's boating industry. Members of our Marinas and Boatyards Committee have expressed concerns on the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels, from the lack of funding for removal (and specifically for commercial vessels) to the direct impacts to water quality and navigation. As vessels are left to crumble and sink, toxic chemicals such as asbestos-laden materials, lead-based paints, gasoline and antifreeze leach into the Delta. San Francisco Bay, in turn, is also subject to the negative effects of these chemicals as flows travel in from the Delta.

Last year, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) conducted an aerial survey and found over 250 vessels, 54 of which are commercial vessels, littered throughout the Delta waterways. The size of commercial vessels compounds their impact on the environment and cost of removal. At an average cost of \$500,000 to remove an abandoned commercial vessel, the total cost is roughly \$27 million.

While BPC is in support of AB 2441, we agree with other boating organizations that have voiced caution against any considerations to target recreational boaters as a funding source. We support the current intention of AB 2441 to establish a stable funding source by utilizing rental revenues from state property within the five Delta counties for removal efforts, and restoration of the Delta ecosystem.

Furthermore, if AB 2441 is successful, BPC would encourage other legislators to consider a similar mechanism for the benefit of additional Bay Area counties that are in need of funding for the removal of abandoned commercial vessels.

We see AB 2441 as a critical step in improving the overall health and navigability of the San Francisco Bay-Delta region. For this reason, BPC supports AB 2441 and hopes to count on support when it is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if BPC can be of assistance in furthering AB 2441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JAC" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

John A. Coleman
Chief Executive Officer