



Making San Francisco Bay Better

May 10, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: Support of S. 412: *the Harbor Maintenance Act of 2011*

Dear Chair Boxer:

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regulates dredging and fill in San Francisco Bay and administers the federal Coastal Zone Management Act within the San Francisco Bay segment of the California coastal zone. Among our responsibilities are promoting maritime commerce in the Bay Area, ensuring safe navigation, and regulating Bay dredging to protect the natural resources and water quality of the Bay. To advance these goals, I am writing to express BCDC's strong support for S. 412, *the Harbor Maintenance Act of 2011*, which would guarantee that future Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues are appropriated for harbor maintenance purposes, including fully maintaining the federal channels to support commerce and prevent hazards to navigation. BCDC voted unanimously to support S. 412 on July 7, 2011.

San Francisco Bay maritime transportation depends on Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues to fund critical maintenance dredging needs. Our ports and harbors require annual dredging and other maintenance work, yet only about half of the funds collected through a fee charged on shippers are actually appropriated for harbor maintenance. The harbor maintenance provisions contained in S. 412 would ensure that all funds deposited into the HMTF in a given fiscal year would be fully expended to operate and maintain all our ports and harbors. These funds will also help support beneficial reuse of dredged material.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to ensure our nation has a strong transportation infrastructure to support jobs, our economy, and our ability to compete in the global market. We are pleased to support this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (415) 352-3611, steveg@bcdc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Goldbeck", written in a cursive style over a white background.

STEVEN GOLDBECK
Acting Executive Director

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SG/TE/rca

cc: Jim Haussener, California Marina Affairs and Navigation Conference
John Coleman, Bay Planning Coalition
Imee Osantowski, Port of Oakland
Michael J. Giari, Port of Redwood City
Lt. Col. Torrey Diciro, US Army Corps of Engineers