



# CITY OF SAUSALITO

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September 22, 2016

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

President and Members of the Board  
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District  
P.O. Box 9000  
Presidio Station  
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601  
[DistrictSecretary@goldengate.org](mailto:DistrictSecretary@goldengate.org)

Re: The District's Proposed Sausalito Ferry Landing Improvements Project

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Board:

In advance of your closed session scheduled for tomorrow morning the City of Sausalito is compelled to respond to a statement attributed to District Spokeswoman, Priya Clements, in the Marin I.J. on September 14, 2016. Ms. Clemens is quoted as saying: "[t]he City asked us for more time, so we withdrew our request for a decision. Despite our continued cooperation, the city chose to file a lawsuit." That statement, however, is both incomplete and inaccurate. It omits the following important facts.

Fact: Sausalito has been working with the District for almost two years to develop a plan acceptable to all parties with numerous hearings and task force meetings. Sausalito has invested substantial resources in performing its due diligence to review the District's proposed ferry landing improvements project (the "Project"). For example, Sausalito retained Environmental Vision, a professional planning and design firm that determined that several of the District's computer-generated visual simulations understated the size of the Project by as much as 80%. Sausalito also retained COWI North America, a professional engineering firm to peer review the District's proposed Project plans. COWI determined that the Project's proposed increases in the size of the float and gangway (a nearly three-fold expansion in the width of the gangway) are excessive, even accepting all of the District's future growth assumptions and operational efficiency goals.

Fact: On August 22, 2016, Sausalito informed the District that the city required a two-week extension to the District's request for a decision regarding consent for the Project within 45 days as required under the lease agreement between Sausalito and the District (the "Lease"). Sausalito explained that this extension was necessary in order for the city to complete its legal obligation under California's Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") to determine if any conditions exist warranting additional environmental review.

## FAX NUMBERS:

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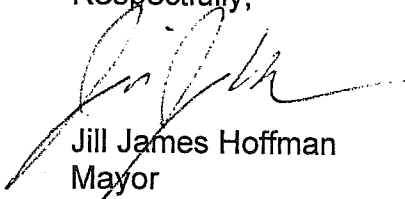
Fact: On September 2, 2016, the District's General Manager, Denis Mulligan, responded in writing to Sausalito's request, not to express the District's "continued cooperation" as Ms. Clemens informed the public, but rather to state the following:

- "[t]he District is hereby withdrawing its submittal and our request for the City's review within a 45-day period pursuant to Section 5.4 of the Lease." (p. 1.);
- "This Project is a regional project, and the State Legislature has clearly stated that the City has no land use authority over it....By means of that Lease, it appears that the City is attempting to control the size and operations of this regional transportation facility." (p. 5)
- "As the District is seeking no discretionary action by the City, the City is no longer a responsible agency under the terms of CEQA and should halt any environmental review process." (p. 5.)

Mr. Mulligan is quoted in the same I.J. article as stating that his statements were "only a clarification" and "not a threat." However, regardless of Mr. Mulligan's intent, the District's letter plainly and unequivocally rejects Sausalito's legal authority to either deny or impose conditions on the Project. Sausalito, therefore, was compelled to file a lawsuit for injunction and declaratory relief in order to defend its sovereignty and legal rights as property owner under the public trust, lessor under the Lease and responsible agency under CEQA.

We hope that the District will reconsider its position, and once again work cooperatively with Sausalito to design and construct an improved Ferry Terminal that appropriately balances the equally important objectives of improved regional transit, environmental protection and the preservation and protection of Sausalito's historic waterfront held in public trust.

Respectfully,



Jill James Hoffman  
Mayor