

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security



United States
Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office
San Francisco Bay

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16611

Isiah Turner, City Manager
Richmond City Hall
1401 Marina Way South
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Mr. Turner:

As the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator for Northern California, it is imperative that I address critical security and safety concerns regarding possible/proposed development in the vicinity of the former Naval Fuel Depot at Point Molate. Since the tragic events of 9-11, the Coast Guard has been directed to examine operations along the waterfront and evaluate each facility's function with respect to critical port infrastructure. It was of no surprise that both the Coast Guard and the State of California identified ChevronTexaco's Richmond Refinery and Long Wharf operations as critical infrastructure for Northern California, Nevada, and the entire Pacific Northwest.

Since 1941, this property has been owned and operated by the U.S. Navy and has been a secure facility. Now that the Navy and the City of Richmond are in discussions regarding the conveyance of the former Navy Fuel Depot, development proposals have included non-industrial uses, such as residential development, convention centers, or casinos. A security assessment conducted by my office identified major concerns regarding non-industrial uses of this property:

Non-industrial uses of Point Molate will make the ChevronTexaco Refinery, a critical part of the port infrastructure, more desirable and more accessible as a terrorist target. For years, operators of the refinery have greatly enhanced security and safety by moving critical parts of their facility away from populated areas. These efforts resulted in buffer zones around the facility that make it a substantially more difficult, and therefore less desirable, target. Development of Point Molate that increases public access will remove the established buffer zones, negate facility security improvements, and subsequently change the Richmond Refinery from a "Hardened Target" to a "Soft Target."

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded substantial Transportation Security Administration Grants to mitigate maritime security concerns. Non-industrial use of the Point Molate land would be in direct opposition to these federal efforts to reduce security threats to our critical port infrastructure.

The Northern California Maritime Security Committee, the California National Guard, and the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center ranked the ChevronTexaco Refinery very high as a potential terrorism target for California. From a security standpoint, controlled access to the Point Molate area is critical for the safety of this port facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald M. Swanson".

GERALD M. SWANSON
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port/
Federal Maritime Security Coordinator for Northern California