

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eleventh District

U.S. Coast Guard Island, Bldg 50-2
Alameda, CA 94501-5100
Staff Symbol: (dpw)
Phone: (510) 437-3514
Fax: (510) 437-5836

16591
Oakland Inner Harbor (3.3)
September 30, 2016

The Honorable Trish Herrera Spencer
The Office of the Mayor, City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Ave, Room 320
Alameda, CA 94501-7575

Dear Mayor Spencer:

The Coast Guard District 11 Bridge Administrator, Mr. Dave Sulouff recently received correspondence from Ms. Cyndy Johnsen, Bike Walk Alameda Bridge the Gap Campaign requesting USCG support for a proposed new bicycle/ pedestrian bridge across the Oakland Inner Harbor Tidal Canal, between Coast Guard Island and the Webster-Posey tubes. I understand that similar correspondence was sent to Bijan Sartipi (Caltrans), Art Dao (Alameda CTC), Libby Schaaf (City of Oakland), and yourself (City of Alameda), requesting strong support for a bicycle and pedestrian moveable bridge between Jack London Square and west Alameda. I am providing this letter in response to your request on 28 Sep, 2016.

The U.S. Coast Guard is the Federal regulatory agency for all bridges over navigable waters of the U.S., pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. As part of the bridge permitting process, Mr. Sulouff conducts an assessment of the navigational uses and needs of the waterway to determine the required navigational clearances for any proposed bridge. Such an assessment was conducted in 2008, with the required navigational clearances provided in our letter dated September 25, 2008 also enclosed here. The frequency, size and type of vessels using the waterway since 2008 continue to increase and the information provided in that letter remains valid for this proposed project. I would also like to note, that in order to comply with the regulations, any drawbridge would be required to provide the necessary drawtender(s) for the safe and prompt opening of the drawbridge upon request from a vessel.

Mr. Dave Sulouff is the point of contact for bridge permitting and can be contacted by telephone at (510) 437-3516. We anticipate being invited and plan to attend future coordination and scoping meetings in our function as the regulatory agency for bridges, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy E. Wirts".

AMY E. WIRTS
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Waterways Management Branch
By direction

Enclosure: USCG Letter, September 25, 2008

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Oakland Inner Harbor (3.3)
September 25, 2008

City of Alameda
Attn: Gail Payne
950 West Mall Square, Room 110
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Ms. Payne:

Please refer to the proposed Alameda-Oakland Estuary (Bicycle & Pedestrian), Crossing Feasibility study, and the bridge related alternatives being considered around mile 3.3 Oakland Inner Harbor. The location and clearances of proposed bridges in, over or on navigable waters of the U.S. are permitted by the U.S. Coast Guard, pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946, as amended. The estuary is considered navigable in it's entirety, for bridge permitting purposes.

Any proposed new bridge crossing of the estuary, between the Webster-Posey tubes and the Park Street Drawbridge should provide the following navigational clearances:

Vertical:

175 feet (53.34 m) above Mean High Water, measured to the lowest hittable part of the bridge

Horizontal:

600 feet (182.88 m), pier face to pier face, or fender to fender


To establish preliminary navigational clearances required for any proposed new bridge at this location, we obtained input from the operators of the largest, present and prospective future vessels on the waterway. These vessels include the new Coast Guard National Security Cutters and crane barges.

The derived navigational clearances necessary for safe operation of existing and prospective future vessels on the waterway, should be used when comparing the feasibility of the various options being considered for the crossing.

16591
September 25, 2008

We will continue to attend the coordination meetings for this project and I can be contacted by telephone at (510) 437-3516 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



DAVID H. SULOUFF
Chief, Bridge Section
Eleventh Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

Copy: USCG PACAREA
Vortex Marine Construction
Dutra Materials
Foss Maritime
USACOE San Francisco