



WESTERN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION



CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION



Agricultural Council of California



Association of California Egg Farmers



California  Seed
Association



California Cherry Export Association

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May 27, 2022

San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
375 Beale Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105
Submitted to: publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov

RE: HOWARD TERMINAL SEAPORT PRIORITY USE (Bay Plan Amendment 2-19)

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully write in opposition to proposed Bay Plan Amendment 2-19. It is imperative for the long-term health and growth of the California agricultural industry that the BCDC keep the Seaport Priority Use designation for Howard Terminal.

We are now in a period where the supply chain is heavily congested, and every other port in the country is looking to grow, adapt, and maximize land available for key maritime and support functions. BCDC should be looking at ways to increase port land to support maritime operations—not remove it.

In light of current congestion issues at the Port of Oakland, the removal of property which provides us with more transportation options will only make our issues worse and make it harder for us to use the Port of Oakland as our primary export gateway. More specifically, this acreage at the Port of Oakland is necessary to be retained as a Seaport Priority Use for our farmers now because Howard Terminal is currently a critical staging area supported by the USDA to alleviate current

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supply chain crisis impacts on American exporters and in the future to ensure that Oakland exporters can grow with the economy.

Moreover, we ask BCDC to reject the narrative that the State of California should develop its policies and planning through 2050 on an assumption that our agricultural export community will perpetually be stuck in a “slow-growth” scenario. We would not be in this business, as it would be unsustainable, if we were to believe that our markets and crops would only be growing at a 1% compounded annual growth rate. As policymakers, this Commission should not be planning on the failure of California’s agricultural community, instead we implore you to plan on our success and our investment in our economy and that means embracing at least a moderate growth scenario.

Our experiences during the pandemic and the current supply chain challenges that have been significantly impacting California agriculture exporters, have strained our system. Since the onset of the pandemic under heavy global demand for intermodal equipment and spaces on ocean-going vessels, a well-functioning, growing, and successful Port of Oakland and ancillary yards like Howard Terminal are more essential than ever to make it possible for us to get our products to our foreign customers and markets.

Howard Terminal is a critical depot yard supported by the USDA to assist exporters and carriers to interchange equipment in high demand. As a 25-acre pop-up site dedicated to filling empty shipping containers with agricultural commodities, Howard Terminal is now playing a crucial role in ensuring the Port of Oakland’s long-term success and viability, and its capacity to continue operating as a key gear in the movement of agricultural goods throughout Northern California.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Will Scott, Jr., President
African American Farmers of California



Emily Rooney, President
Agricultural Council of California



Richard Matoian, President
American Pistachio Growers

Todd Sanders, Executive Director
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
Olive Growers Council of California

Casey Creamer, President
California Citrus Mutual

Roger Isom, President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
Western Agricultural Processors Association

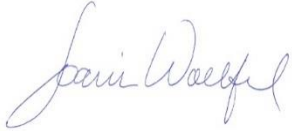
Ian LeMay, President
California Fresh Fruit Association

Timothy A. Johnson, President/CEO
California Rice Commission

Mike Montna, President/CEO
California Tomato Growers Association



Craig Duerr, Vice President, Global Sales
Campos Brothers Farms



Joani Woelfel, President & CEO
Far West Equipment Dealers Association



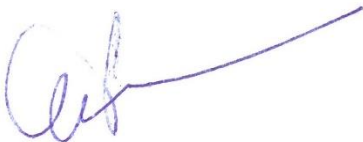
Ryan Jacobsen, CEO
Fresno County Farm Bureau



Kevin Abernathy, General Manager
Milk Producers Council



Manuel Cunha, Jr., President
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Harvey Singh, Chairman
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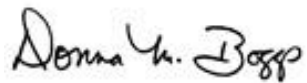
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