

Study Underway to Identify Location for Ferry Terminal

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Spring 2007

Port to Celebrate Its 70th Anniversary With a Two-Day Celebration Featuring Tours Aboard the *Jeremiah O'Brien*

The Port of Redwood City will celebrate its 70th anniversary this summer with a two-day public celebration July 21-22 that will feature public tours aboard the historic Liberty ship *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*, Port Commission Chairman Jack Castle has announced.

This will be the *O'Brien's* first visit to Redwood City in 15 years.

"Besides the *O'Brien*, we look forward to participation by the Marine Science Institute, Sea Scouts, Sequoia Yacht Club, San Mateo County History Museum, City of Redwood City, and others," Castle said. There will be exhibits about port businesses, food booths, music, and other public activities that are still being planned.



"We expect this event to be every bit as successful as our 60th anniversary, when the Port brought FDR's yacht, the *Potomac*, to Redwood City for public visits," Castle added.

SS Jeremiah O'Brien is a Liberty ship built during World War II and named for American Revolutionary War ship captain *Jeremiah O'Brien* (1744-1818). Now based in San Francisco, the *O'Brien* is one of only two currently operational WWII Liberty ships afloat of the 2,751 built during the war. The other surviving such ship is *SS John W. Brown* based in Baltimore.

Built in only 40 days at the New

Port Becomes First Industrial User of Recycled Water

Redwood City Port Commission Chairman Jack Castle announced that the Port will be one of the first applicants for the use of recycled water in the City's industrial area.

"We have been working with the City and the Seaport Industrial Association to promote the use of recycled water because it makes economic sense for industrial businesses, and will benefit the community by reducing the use of drinking water from the Hetch Hetchy system," Castle said.

The Port will use recycled water for irrigation of landscaping around the Marina and other landscaped areas of the Port.

"Several of the Port businesses joined us at a recent meeting with City staff for a Q & A session on recycled water," Castle said. "Most of them are excited about the future prospect of recycled water for landscaping and industrial uses. Industrial uses will include: mixing with cement to produce concrete, dust suppression, truck washing, and to produce steam for steam-powered machinery.

Port area businesses that switch to recycled water will realize substantial savings for at least five years from the connection date under a program promoted by the City. For industrial meters, the City will discount each water bill by 40 percent. For commercial irrigation meters, the discount will be 25 percent.

"Port businesses were very impressed when the recycled water officials explained all of the things Public Works will provide in terms of assistance," Castle said. These include:

- Water evaluation as related to production processes.
- Technical advice on regulations, design and water use efficiency.
- Assistance with meeting regulatory requirements.
- Training for key personnel
- Soil and plant analysis and recommendations, accompanied with irrigation system evaluations and efficiency recommendations.
- Reimbursement for some irrigation equipment upgrades or adjustments.

"The recycled water program's ability to work with businesses like this made a very favorable impression at the meeting," Castle concluded.

England Shipbuilding Co. in South Portland, Maine, and launched on June 19,

1943, the *O'Brien* not only made four perilous roundtrip wartime crossings of the Atlantic and served at Normandy on D-Day, the vessel later saw 16 months of service in both the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean, calling at ports in Chile, Peru, New Guinea, the Philippines, India, China, and Australia.

After being decommissioned in 1946, the *O'Brien* spent 33 years in the Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay before being broken out in 1979 to be restored by the National Liberty Ship Memorial. The *O'Brien* also has the distinction of being the only vessel from the vast D-Day armada of 6,939 ships, boats, and other amphibious craft to return to Normandy in June, 1994, for the 50th Anniversary of that historic event after having been sailed there from San Francisco by a volunteer crew of veteran WWII-era sailors.

The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* was designated a National Historic Landmark, and is docked at Pier 45 at Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. Captain Jeremiah O'Brien (1744-1818) was in command of *Unity* when she captured *HMS Margaretta* in the first naval battle of the American Revolutionary War.

The Liberty ships were cargo ships built in the United States during World War II. They were British in conception but adapted by the U.S.A., cheap and quick to build, and came to symbolize U.S. wartime industrial output. Based on vessels ordered by Britain to replace ships torpedoed by German U-boats, they were purchased for the U.S. fleet and for lend-lease provision to Britain. Eighteen American shipyards built 2,751 Liberties between 1941 and 1945, easily the largest number of navy ships produced to a single design.

A 1936 bond issue provided funds for a "new port" at its present location in Redwood City. A community celebration that rivaled the one San Francisco had presented four months earlier to dedicate the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge drew thousands of visitors to the "new" port, which, indeed, was new in name only, having already spun a colorful 76 year history prior to 1937, most of it at its "embarcadero" location in what is today downtown Redwood City.

The two-day celebration July 21-22 will include several other activities for the public to enjoy at the Port

Demolition of LBT Tanks on Schedule; Port Eyes New Business

The demolition of the tanks and environmental remediation of the 9-acre site of the former Liquid Bulk Terminal is proceeding on schedule and expected to be completed this spring. The terminal site will then be returned to income-producing use.

Eagle Rock Aggregates is proposing to construct and operate an aggregate import terminal on a portion of the site. In 2004, the Port Commission approved an agreement with AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. to perform an environmental review and analysis necessary for this project.

The Port also entered into an agreement with Eagle Rock to reimburse the Port for the cost of the study. AMEC's scope of work included the completion of an Initial Study describing the project and its potential impacts on the environment.

Following the completion of the Draft Initial Study, changes were made to the project which required changes to the Initial Study and further revisions and analyses of the environmental impacts. The mitigated negative declaration for the project was made available for public review in March.

The former liquid bulk terminal was leased and operated by Gibson Environmental, Inc., from 1988 to 1995, and used by Gibson for processing, treatment, and storage of hazardous waste materials.

Facing civil and criminal charges for unauthorized management of hazardous waste, Gibson abandoned operations in October of 1995 and vacated the facility without cleaning it up, as required under law. In December 1995, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) ruled that the Port, as landowner, was responsible for closure and remediation of the site.

Update on Port's Role in Bair Island Restoration Project

Port staff over the recent months has continued to participate in meetings with the Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,



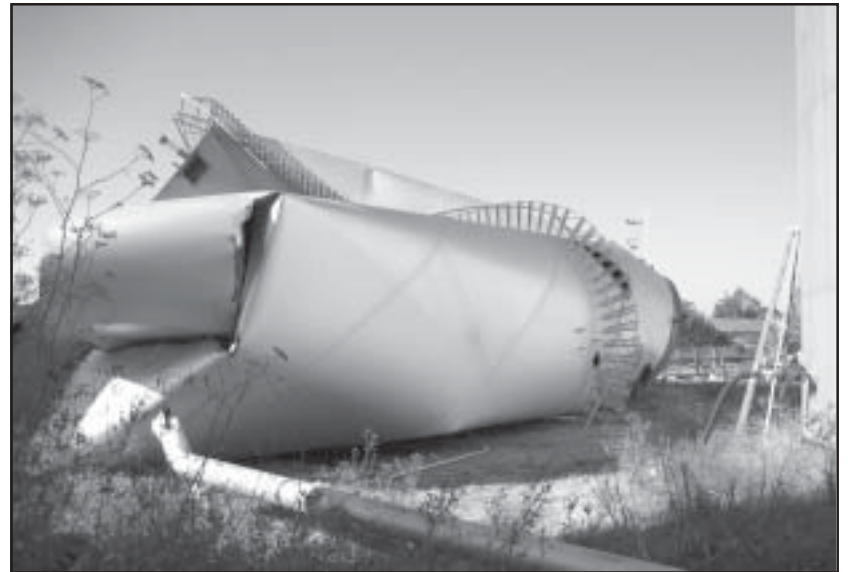
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's office, and various local agencies to coordinate activities that would use Port dredged materials as the among the sources of material for Bair Island Restoration Plan. A pilot project could be authorized in 2007. Meanwhile, the Port Commission is supporting Congresswoman Eshoo's efforts to secure funding for the restoration and maintenance dredging of the Port.

A final environmental impact statement (EIS) and report for the project was issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in July and certified in August. The agencies plans are to restore tidal action to 1,400 acres of former salt ponds on Bair Island, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Bair Island State Ecological Reserve in South San Francisco Bay. The Port of Redwood City could play a major role in the restoration because the EIR and preferred plan by the agencies calls for using dredge materials from the regular Port of Redwood City channel maintenance dredging.

The Corps & U.S. Fish & Wildlife signed a memo of understanding recognizing their common interest in restoring Bair Island with dredged material from future port maintenance projects.

The goal of the proposed Bair Island Restoration and Management Plan is to restore Bair Island to a tidal salt marsh to provide habitat for endangered species and other native wildlife as well as to enhance the public's appreciation and awareness of the unique resources at Bair Island. Once restored, the site will assist with the preservation and recovery of both the California clapper rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse.

Information on the final EIS is available at www.fws.gov/desfbay/Bair/NOA.htm



Photos of the tanks being removed at the Port's Liquid Bulk Terminal as part of the environmental clean-up project that is almost done

Ever since the Port has worked with environmental consultants, legal experts and the DTSC to develop and implement a closure plan for the facility, which includes treatment and disposal of the 10 million gallons of hazardous wastes that were left in the tanks, decontamination of the tanks, pipelines and related equipment, as well as remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater.

The resulting plan was approved by the Board of Port Commissioners, and was implemented in 1999, taking seven years to reach the final stage.



(left to right): Ellen Johnck, Bay Planning Coalition; Lt. General Carl Strock; Redwood City Mayor Barbara Pierce ; behind her Clyde Morris, Refuge Manager; Don Edwards S. F. Bay Nat'l Wildlife; Lt. Col. Craig W. Kiley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, S. F. District; Port of Redwood City Executive Director Mike Giari. Behind him are USACE's Joel Pliskin (l) and Arijis Rakstins.

Army Corps of Engineers No. 1 Official Visits Port

Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock visited the Port of Redwood City in November, the first time the highest ranking Corps' official has visited Redwood City.

Strock was greeted at a working lunch meeting by port staff, Redwood City Mayor Barbara Pierce, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Manager Clyde Morris, Bay Planning Coalition Director Ellen Johnck and others. They discussed the port in general, the port's growth in tonnage over the last five years, maintenance dredging of Redwood Creek, and the recommendation to use dredged material to help restore adjacent tidal marsh Bair Island (see related story in this newsletter).

After the meeting, the participants went to the top of the Cemex cement silos to view the Port and Bair Island.

Strock took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a military ceremony on July 1, 2004. Strock is the 51st chief of engineers. Strock has served the Army 35 years. He was previously assigned as the director of civil works, and the director of military programs at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington D.C. He also served as deputy director of operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Port Participates in Regional Emergency Preparedness Drill

The Port participated in a Northern California emergency preparedness and response exercise called Golden Guardian last fall. This past year was the 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the exercise was based on a similar 7.9 magnitude earthquake causing significant damage throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

One of the goals of the exercise was to set up and operate the Port's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for four hours and communicate with the City EOC at the police department. All of the Port staff participated in the exercise and there was participation from "outside" the port by representatives from the local Coast Guard auxiliary, Sea Scouts, and Cemex Aggregates.

At the beginning of the exercise, Port staff was contacted to learn their status following the earthquake and inform them that the EOC was being activated in the port office. Simulated telephone calls were made to the port chairman and port attorney to authorize the declaration of a state of emergency at the Port.

After deploying Port staff to assess the damage to Port facilities and contacting tenants on the condition of their facilities, land telephones and cell phones went out of service. "We were still able to communicate with port maintenance staff via VHS radios and with the City EOC with ham radio equipment operated by the Coast Guard Auxiliary," reported Port Executive Director Michael J. Giari.

Some of the other interjections into the exercise included damage to the Cemex aggregate conveyors, piles of scrap cars



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger participated in a similar drill held simultaneously with Redwood City's in San Francisco.

blocking Sims driveways, and a large sink hole on Seaport Boulevard blocking vehicle access to Highway 101. After Port staff surveyed the wharves from the landside and Sea Scouts surveyed the wharves and condition of the navigation channel from their vessel, Port staff informed the City EOC that Wharf 3 was designated and ready to receive any emergency vessels. Staff also informed the city that the Yorktown Clipper passenger ship was at Wharf 5 and was capable of providing a certain number of beds and meals.

Following the exercise and debriefing, Giari and Port Operations Manager Don Snaman went to the City EOC at the police department to observe their exercise which was still going on.

"Based on what was learned from the exercise, we will get a draft improvement plan for the Port's Emergency Response Plan and discuss implementation with Port staff," Giari said.

Ferry Terminal Study Will Recommend a Specific Site on Westpoint Slough

The Port Commission has approved a proposal by a consortium of consultants for a comprehensive ferry terminal study, including terminal location analysis, environmental assessment, and preliminary design.

Port Commission Chairman Jack Castle said that the \$121,500 study will enable the Port to finalize a specific location along Westpoint Slough for a ferry terminal and will put the Port in a state of readiness when funding becomes available for facilities construction and vessel operations.

The Port is part of the plan for expanded water transit service in the San Francisco Bay Area adopted by the Bay Area Water Transit Authority. The plan envisions service starting in Redwood City in 2012.

The lead consultant is CHS Consulting Group of San Francisco, with assistance from several other consultants specializing in waterfront design/engineering, environmental review, and biological resources assessment. CHS's Michael Fajans in 2000 prepared the Redwood City Ferry Terminal Analysis, a preliminary examination of site location alternatives and initial environmental review. Since that time, the Port and Bay Area Water Transit Authority convened a Water Transit Discussion Group that conducted further analysis of site alternatives.

The new study will recommend a specific site on Westpoint Slough, and evaluate Port property and property owned by Pacific Shores Center. The consultants also will begin the conceptual design work, both for required landside and waterside facilities. Vehicular access and parking, shuttle bus parking, sheltered waiting areas, a transition structure to a floating dock, and a floating dock of the standards desired by the WTA will be designed, costed, and reviewed for environ-

mental compatibility. In addition, the consultants will prepare several architectural renderings to give the Port and the community a better image and expectation of how the Redwood City ferry terminal may look. Finally, a draft analysis will be presented to the Port Commission and City Council, and the final report will reflect input from public officials and the public.

Chairman Castle noted that the Port has been diligently working to bring ferries to Redwood City since the creation in 1998 of the Blue Ribbon Water Transit Task Force, which was a joint initiative of the Bay Area Council & the Bay Area Economic Forum. The Blue Ribbon Committee eventually, in 1999, presented to the legislature a proposal called "Bay Area Water Transit for the 21st Century."

The state Legislature accepted the proposal and created the Water Transit Authority, which prepared a regional plan for the expansion of ferry service that was subsequently adopted by the state legislature. The plan has Redwood City starting ferry service by 2012.

The Port will be eligible for Measure A funds in 2009 to help pay for facilities. Other funding sources being evaluated by the WTA and the Port include Federal Ferry Discretionary Fund, State infrastructure bonds, local transit impact fees, and farebox revenues.

"The Port and the City are conducting this ferry terminal study to identify the terminal site and prepare design/cost specifications so that as future funding sources are available, we will be off and running with this project," Castle said. The study is scheduled to be completed by July 2007.

Castle added that "the new ferry terminal we are designing will be a substantial asset in our city for its citizens."

Port Chairman Jack Castle:
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Two issues of Currents will be electronic each year, posted on the Port's website www.redwoodcityport.com. If you would like to receive a PDF version of the newsletter to your email, send us your email address at portofredwoodcity@yahoo.com. The next published Currents will be early summer 2007, followed by two electronic issues.

Get Port Agenda, Minutes From Our Website

The Port Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 a.m. at the Port offices, 675 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City.

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be retrieved from the Port's website at www.redwoodcityport.com

News & Happening Around the Port of Redwood City

USGS Leaves After 22 Years, But *Polaris* Remains

While the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recently completed its move to Santa Cruz after 22 years at the Port of Redwood City, one of the most visible USGS operations is remaining—the research vessel *Polaris*. It completes several cruises on San Francisco Bay each month, collecting water and sediment samples that are taken back to USGS labs in Menlo Park for analysis. USGS is leasing a storage area near Wharf 5.



The *Polaris* was featured in the Nova television series, “Inside the Golden Gate,” and has been featured in articles in Sunset Magazine and National Geographic. The *Polaris* was built in Los Angeles, at a cost of \$150,000. She was christened the “*Pasada Mañana*” and launched on May 12, 1927. The original owner, Lee Phillips, was an engineer and building contractor who built the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, developed Wilshire Boulevard and superintended the construction of many of the levees in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River delta.

Port Participates in Revitalized Downtown Event

Port staff and commissioners participated in Redwood City’s revitalized Downtown celebration last fall. The Port displayed its information booth featuring the colorful history of the Port to help educate visitors wanting to learn more about the Peninsula’s only deepwater port.

Many of the activities took place on Broadway and on the beautiful new section of Middlefield Road, which has been nicknamed “Theatre Way” from Veterans Boulevard to Main Street. Theatre Way is a great place to eat, drink, stroll, or meet up with friends, and features attractive granite paving with special details to bring out a European feel.

Theatre Way now houses one of the world’s best-designed movie theater complexes – the Century Downtown 20 - with a soaring 40-foot lobby ceiling, 20 screens, and 4,200 seats. At street-level, 85,000 square feet of retail shops and restaurants are creating a lively and active downtown life.



Commission Elects Officers

The Port Commission has elected new officers to serve through July 2007.

- Jack Castle, who owns an insurance company, becomes chairman.
- Lewis Miller, a retired Canada College professor, becomes vice chairman.
- Richard “Dick” Dodge, who owns an office supply business, becomes secretary.

Castle succeeds Larry Aikins as chairman. Aikins and Ralph Garcia are the other commissioners on the five-member body, which is appointed for staggered terms by the Redwood City Council.



Jack Castle

Port Commission Honors Retiring Officer John Harp

The Port Commission recently presented retiring Redwood City Police Officer John Harp with a resolution lauding him for being a long-time friend of the Port of Redwood City and advocate of clean waterways.



Harp began his distinguished career with the Redwood City Police Department in 1979 and over the years served his department as a board member of the Police Activities League and as president of the Redwood City Police Officers Association. Officer Harp demonstrated his dedication to community for safe and clean waterways by helping to secure a surplus U.S. Customs boat to serve as Redwood City’s Police Boat, ‘The Copper Top,’ and went to Florida to personally retrieve the boat;

He was an active member of the AquaTerra Citizens Advisory Committee that received \$900,000 in grants from the State between 1995-2000 to remove 133 derelict vessels from 17 miles of waterways in and surrounding the Port.

Officer Harp personally patrolled the port area on land and on the police boat to assure the safety and cleanliness of the waterways. In addition, he was an advocate of a new tough ordinance adopted by both the Port Commission and City Council regarding abandoned boats and other hazards in its waterways as well as providing enforceable regulations for water craft speed limits, noise limitations, overnight mooring and anchoring, and pollution.

4,600 Students Visit Touring Tallships at Port

Canon fire announced the arrival of the tallships *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain* as they sailed into the Port of Redwood City for a 12-day stay in March. Both ships offered educational programs to more than 4,600 school children from the Peninsula. Nearly 3,000 members of the public also participated in shipboard tours and special sailing events. The crew, all dressed in period costume, explained the life of an 18th century sailor and the workings of square-rigged sailing vessels.

The *Lady Washington*, star of the first Pirates of the Caribbean movie as the Interceptor, and the *Hawaiian Chieftain* embarked on three-hour battle sails with passengers onboard. These mock sea battles, complete with cannon fire, offered a unique opportunity to learn more about sailing, watch the crew in action hauling line and climbing the rigging, and experience the romance of sail as these graceful vessels maneuvered for supremacy of the harbor.

The *Lady Washington* is a full scale reproduction of an historic 18th century 112 foot square rigged brig that sailed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The 99-ton all wooden boat can set 4,442 square feet of sail on two masts that rise as high as 87 feet.

The *Hawaiian Chieftain*, a 103 foot square topsail ketch, is a contemporary interpretation of an 18th century European trading vessel common in the Hawaiian Islands during the late 1700’s and early 1800’s. The *Hawaiian Chieftain*, built in Hawaii, was launched in 1988. The 80-ton steel-hulled boat can set more than 4,200 square feet of sail on two masts that rise as high as 75 feet.

The Port of Redwood City looks forward to hosting these tallships again in 2008. For more information, visit www.historicalseaport.org or call 1-800-200-5239.

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Port of Redwood City
San Francisco Bay



Port Commissioners

Jack Castle, Chairman
Lewis Miller, Vice Chairman
Richard “Dick” Dodge, Secretary

Larry Aikins, Commissioner
Ralph Garcia, Commissioner
Michael J. Giari, Executive Director

Award-winning Currents : a regular publication of the Port of Redwood City, a self-supporting municipal corporation, providing port, commercial, and recreational facilities to the community. **The Port receives no tax revenues.** —

Editor: Duane Sandul

Telephone: (650) 306-4150 Fax: (650) 369-7636
675 Seaport Boulevard Redwood City, CA 94063-2794
webpage: www.redwoodcityport.com