



A Special Message from the Port Commission

Impact of Economic Recession on Port Financial Performance

By Richard “Dick” Dodge
Chairman

Port of Redwood City Board of Commissioners

The Port of Redwood City, of course, is not immune from the worldwide economic recession. After reaching numerous records for business during the past dozen years, the Port is experiencing the downturns that are gripping many ports around the world and many businesses from Redwood City to New York to London.

We are working hard to reduce the impacts and to explore new businesses. When the economy improves and, specifically the level of construction activity increases, the Port will be ready to participate and benefit. Here is a summary of the impacts of the economic recession on Port financial performance.

Tonnage

Port tonnage has dropped in the second half of FY2009 and is forecast to finish the year at 810,000 metric tons compared to 1.5 million last year, a 45% decline.

Port tonnage for bulk commodities such as cement, limestone, and gypsum have been at zero for several months and are not expected to come back until late 2009 or early 2010. Although scrap metal tonnage is remaining steady at approximately 350,000 metric tons, total Port tonnage will remain low at about 700,000 – 800,000 metric tons next year.

Revenue

Maritime-driven revenue normally accounts for 70-75% of the Port's total operating revenue. While maritime revenue is not totally dependent on tonnage there is a significant correlation. Total operating revenue is expected to decline in FY2009 to less than \$5 million from \$5.6 million in FY08, a decline of 10% or more.

Subvention

Likewise, base subvention to the City of Redwood City (6% of gross operating revenue) will decrease from \$335,000 to approximately \$300,000 this year.

Performance/Reserves/Capital Projects

The Port has successfully managed its operating expenses in light of declining operating revenues and is still in the black. While it has not been necessary to use cash reserves to cover operating expenses, reserves are being used for capital projects including a new Marina “E” dock, berth maintenance dredging, and engineering/environmental studies for Channel deepening and replacement of Wharves 1&2.

Grants

The Port has received grants for capital projects including a \$1.1 million renovation to the public boat launch

ramp and Port security improvements and emergency preparedness equipment.

Ferry Service

Advancement of ferry service has been slowed due to suspension of work on the EIR/EIS. The studies are funded through a State Proposition 1B grant. The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) will resume the studies when bond funding is again available.

Opening Day Featured Boat Parade to Launch Sailing Season

“Legends of the Bay” was the theme for the 2009 Opening Day Boat Parade April 4 to launch the South Bay Sailing season at the Port of Redwood City Marina. Redwood City Vice Mayor Diane Howard, pictured, was the grand marshal at an event that featured a decorated boat parade and a visit from two tall ships, Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain.



Local School Children Win Prizes in Port Poster Contest

Karen Dooley, a third grader from Roy Cloud School in Redwood City, won first place in the 2009 Port Poster Contest, which attracted nearly 500 entries from nine schools. Karen won a new bicycle, helmet and lock and a battle reenactment sail aboard the Lady Washington.

Other winners were:

- 2nd Place, Auryana Rodriguez, Roy Cloud, received a Razor mini scooter with knee pads and helmet a battle reenactment sail aboard the Lady Washington. Auryana is a fifth grader.
- 3rd Place, Nate Bartoshuk, North Star, received a wooden deluxe art supply set and a \$30 gift certificate redeemable at Malibu Castle. Nate is a fifth grader.
- 3rd Grade Honorable Mention, Paola Gonzalez Torres, Clifford
- 4th Grade Honorable Mention, Ruben Nieto, Hawes
- 5th Grade Honorable Mention, Bjorn Larsen, North Star

The three honorable mention prize winners each received a 71-piece art supply kit with sketch pad.

A \$500 school participation award to Roy Cloud Elementary School for having the most entries..

The panel of judges for this year's poster contest included:

- Petra Gilmore, Commodore of Sequoia Yacht Club
- Missy Howard, Development Director, Marine Science Institute
- Lynn Gardner, Head Coach & Program Director, Palo Alto Rowing Club
- Carol Platner, Coordinator, 2009 PAL Toy Drive

The winning posters are on display at the Redwood City Library on Middlefield Road. Other entries are display inside the foyer at City Hall.



Port Commission Vice Chairman Ralph Garcia presents Karen Dooley with a bicycle for winning first place



Photo to the left: Winners Auryana Rodriguez, Karen Dooley, and Nate Bartoshuk; photo to the right: Vice Chairman Ralph Garcia with judges Left to Right: Lynn Gardner, Head Coach & Program Director, Palo Alto Rowing Club; Missy Howard, Development Director, Marine Science Institute; Carol Platner, Coordinator of 2009 PAL Toy Drive. The fourth judge was Petra Gilmore, Commodore, Sequoia Yacht Club – (not in picture)



Photo to the right: Honorable Mention winners Bjorn Larsen, Paola Gonzalez Torres, and Ruben Nieto



Port's New Public Boat Launch Ramp Ready for Public Use

The \$1.1 million project (including engineering and construction management) included a new boat launch facility and associated parking lot and retaining walls to replace the existing ramp and one of the two adjacent existing floating docks. The work also included additional shoreline protection and restroom facilities.

The Port has the only public boat launching facility with access to San Francisco Bay south of Coyote Point. Boats on trailers can be launched in the Redwood City Channel 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The use fee is \$5.00 per launch. The ramp is located at the end of Chesapeake Drive.

Port and Police Department Receive Homeland Security Grants

Redwood City's Police Department is receiving \$75,705 and the Port of Redwood City \$176,903 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Mayor Rosanne Foust and Port Board Chairman Richard "Dick" Dodge announced recently.

The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) is one of six grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security focus on transportation infrastructure security activities. The PSGP is one tool in the comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the Administration to strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks.

The Port grant will be used for enhancements and improvements to the Port's security systems and access control. The Police Department grant will be used for security equipment for its patrol boat and waterside security training.

"We're extremely pleased to receive this grant funding," said Chairman Dodge. "This will offer some needed improvements to the Port's security systems, and help ensure that we're well-prepared for an emergency."

Mayor Foust congratulated the Police Department and the Port for diligently working together on the successful grant request, adding, "The grants will certainly further the ongoing coordination between the Port and Police Department on security and emergency preparedness. This is very important for not only the Port, but for the entire community, and we're grateful for these funds."

Spinnaker Sailing Offers Sailing Camps

Spinnaker Sailing School at the Port of Redwood City is offering one-week sailing camps for kids 11-15 this summer. These fun and exciting one-week sailing camps run Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm every week from June 8 through August 28.

Each day consists of classroom, dockside and on the water instruction. Groups of up to four students will receive classroom instruction and will get hands on experience learning to sail 22 foot keelboats.

Spinnaker Sailing School has been teaching kids and adults how to sail since 1980. Instructors are certified by the American Sailing Association. For more information: Spinnaker Sailing School, 451 Seaport Court, Redwood City, CA 94063. (at the Port of Redwood City Redwood City Marina) Phone: (650) 363-1390.

Website: www.spinnakersailing.com



Our Newsletter

Welcome to another issue of the newly formatted electronic newsletter. For almost 20 years the print version of "Currents" has been a tabloid, 11 by 17. As regular readers of Currents know, we are providing electronic newsletters at least twice a year and print once or twice a year. So that it is easier for readers to print out the electronic PDF, our electronic issues are formatted to the standard 8 ½ by 11.

—The Editor



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