



**Port Participates in Regional  
 Emergency Preparedness Drill**

The Port participated in a Northern California emergency preparedness and response exercise called Golden Guardian 2006 on Nov. 15. 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

Welcome to 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 now rotating print and electronic newsletters.

So that it is easier for readers to print out the electronic PDF, our electronic issues are formatted to the standard 8 1/2 by 11.

—The Editor



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

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 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

***'One of our goals is to work with port tenants and city/county agencies on emergency preparedness and response so that it becomes a regular part of running the port and a 'daily occurrence' instead of a 'special event.'***

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. Steve Longoria and other staff from Aanko Technologies provided exercise preparation, control, and evaluation for both the port and city.

“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.



## 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 as-



signed 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.

*(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 Natl 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 ar USACE’s Joel Pliski (l) and Arijs Rakstins.*

## Saturday, March 31: Mark Your Calendar for Opening Day of Sailing Season

**The Opening Day of the South Bay Sailing Season will feature a decorated boat parade and other activities Saturday, March 31**



**Details: visit Sequoia Yacht Club’s webpage [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org)**



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

## Demolition of LBT Tanks on Schedule; Port Eyes New Business

The demolition of the tanks and 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. These are pending and are expected in early 2007.

Information on leasing the site is available by contacting Port Economic Development Manager Steve Wright at 650-306-4159, or by e-mail at [swright@redwoodcityport.com](mailto:swright@redwoodcityport.com)

The 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.

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.



Hawaiian Chieftain

## Popular Tallships Return in March

The popular tallships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain return to the Port of Redwood City for public tours and special events with area school children March 8-19. Check [www.ladywashington.org](http://www.ladywashington.org) for more information and schedule when it is posted in late January. The schedule will also be at [www.redwoodcityport.com](http://www.redwoodcityport.com)



Lady Washington

## USGS Leaves Port 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 Redwood City Celebration

Port of Redwood City’s 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.

## Giari Named Bay Planning Coalition Member of the Year

The Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) named Port of Redwood City Executive Director Michael J. Giari its outstanding member of the year at its Dec. 15 annual luncheon and membership meeting at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco.

BPC Executive Director Ellen Johnck presented Giari with the honor (*photo to the right*). Those in attendance included Redwood City Mayor Barbara Pierce, Port Commissioners Dick Dodge, Lewis Miller, and Ralph Garcia, Port staff Steve Wright, Cynthia Hampton and Rita Artist, and Port Attorney Francois Sorba.

BPC is an advocate for the balanced use and regulation of San Francisco Bay-Delta resources to ensure the economic prosperity and environ-



mental protection. Founded in 1983, the BPC is a non-profit, membership-based organization representing the maritime industry and related shoreline business, ports and local governments, landowners, recreational users, environmental and business organizations, and professional service firms in engineering, construction, law, planning, and environmental sciences.

## Commission Commends Retiring Police 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.



## Update on Port's Role in Bair Island Marsh 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 federal 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.

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](http://www.fws.gov/desfbay/Bair/NOA.htm)



### Port Commissioners

**Jack Castle**, Chairman

**Lewis Miller**, Vice Chairman

**Richard "Dick" Dodge**, Secretary

**Larry Aikins**, Commissioner

**Ralph Garcia**, Commissioner

**Michael J. Giari**, Executive Director

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# Holiday Train Decorating Starts at Redwood City's 'Home Port'

By Janet McCovern  
San Mateo County Transportation District  
Public Information Specialist

Caltrain's sixth annual holiday train rolled down the Peninsula the weekend of Dec. 2 and 3, thanks to the availability of a "home port" in Redwood City.

For the third year, the Port of Redwood City generously provided space where Caltrain staff and dedicated volunteers decorated and wired the holiday in preparation for Santa's mega-watt ride on the big weekend.

"Providing this space just adds to what the port is able to do to show our community spirit," Port Operations Manager Don Snaman said. The port also has an annual toy drive and staffers collect, help wrap and deliver toys to needy children.

Begun in 2001 as a partnership between Caltrain and the rail enthusiasts from the Golden Gate Railroad Museum, the holiday train initially was decorated on the museum grounds at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard. When the Navy began moving ahead with plans for redevelopment at Hunter's Point, GGRM needed to relocate and that also meant that the holiday train had to find a new home.

Caltrain did not have a suitable rail yard anywhere on its property between San Francisco and San Jose which could be taken out of active use for some two months as "Santa's workshop."

Two years ago, the Port of Redwood City was approached and readily agreed to make available — at no cost — a fenced, secure railroad version of a



Elf and Frosty greet visitors

"dry dock" for Caltrain's holiday train. The bonus: the amateur train-decorators enjoy a spectacular view of the waterfront activity while they work.

"We have the space and it's convenient for Caltrain and the people decorating the train to come in and out to work," Snaman said. "We can fit it all around what we do."

The gradual transformation begins in October, when two Caltrain passenger cars, two flatcars and a caboose morph into a dazzling "show train" for Santa Claus and the entire North Pole entourage.

One of the key purposes of the Caltrain Holiday Train is to generate donations for the Salvation Army's holiday toy drive and the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. People who come to see the train are encouraged to drop a new, unwrapped toy or book in the barrels at the station stops.

The train visited nine stations over two nights Dec. 2 and 3, with a 20-minute show at each stop.

## Port Commissioners Select New 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.



Lewis Miller, left; Jack Castle, right; Dick Dodge, center



**Get Agenda,  
Minutes From Our  
Website**

# Photos from the Port's Holiday Party December 7 at Port Board Room

## Guests Brought Gifts for Toys-for-Tots



Marilou Seiff (Marine Science Institute), Redwood City Mayor Barbara Pierce, Redwood City Community Development Director Susan Moeller, Andrea Swensrud (Marine Science Institute)



Keith Bautista (Chair, Board of Building Review), Port Commission Chairman Jack Castle, Warren Dale (Chair, Civic Cultural Commission), Sandy Bautista

Right Photo: Cheryl Ruskin, Moon Lim guest of and standing next to Chu Chang (Civil Engineer), and Assemblyman Ira Ruskin



Left: Redwood City Councilman/past Mayor Jeff Ira with Gino Gasparini of NorCal Waste



Port webmaster Jennifer Kuhn, former Port Commissioner Guy Smith, Port Executive Director Michael Giari, Donna Smith, and Elizabeth Miller, wife of Port Commissioner Lewis Miller

Photos taken by Steve Penna, publisher, The Spectrum Magazine, which is now online at [www.spectrummagazine.net/](http://www.spectrummagazine.net/)



Port Commission Secretary Dick Dodge, former City/Port Attorney Dave Schricker, and Chamber President Barry Jolette