

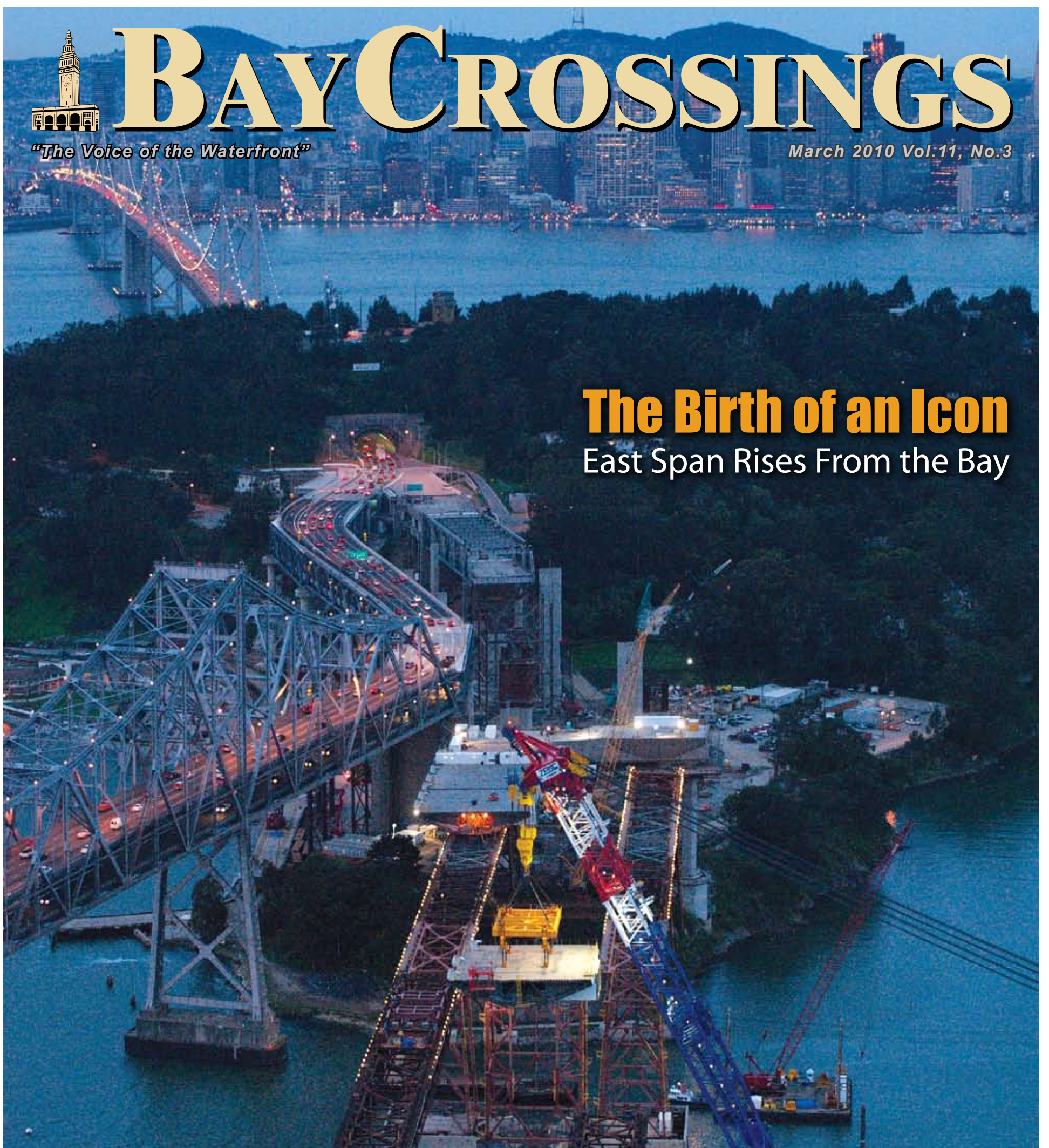


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March 2010 Vol.11, No.3

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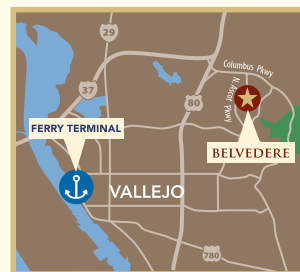
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BAYCROSSINGS

"The Voice of the Waterfront"

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Corrections & Letters

We appreciate the opportunity to publish our readers' comments, letters or requests for corrections, which can be sent to joel@baycrossings.com.

Frequent *Bay Crossings* contributor Barrie Rokeach took this stunning early-morning photograph of the Left Coast Lifter—a huge crane specially fabricated for this job—lifting a deck section of the new East Span of the Bay Bridge. The Lifter has been delicately placing the ultra-heavy deck sections on temporary trestles supporting the self-anchored suspension span.

The first eight of 28 steel deck sections arrived in Oakland by ship in January, and were then transported by barge to the construction site. The iconic new span will open to traffic in 2013. Read and see more inside, page 10.

Cover photo © 2010 Barrie Rokeach www.rokeachphoto.com.



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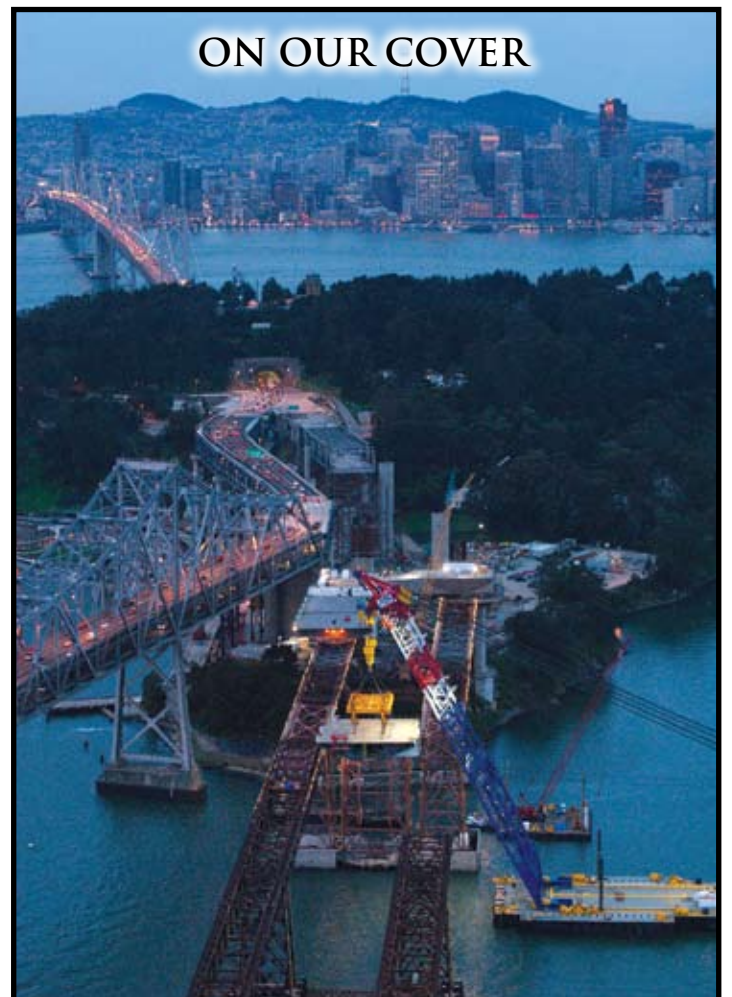
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Bay Bridge Uses Google Earth to Showcase Iconic East Span Construction Process

Caltrans and Google Earth are teaming up to give Bay Area residents and bridge enthusiasts around the world a sneak peek of the new San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span, and the ability to observe its ongoing construction from their computers.

Google Earth users who have the “3D Buildings” feature turned on can view a model of the future bridge and monitor the ongoing construction of the self-anchored suspension span (SAS), the most iconic element of the seismic upgrade project. Sections of the SAS will appear in Google Earth soon after they are lifted into place on San Francisco Bay. Deck and tower sections will appear green on Google Earth as they are being lifted, and will turn solid after they are in place. Already, the first deck section is visible.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity to take information about the SAS to a whole new level,” said Bay Bridge Public Information Officer Bart Ney. “Google Earth offers a rich interactive environment that allows people to experience the bridge in a whole new way.”

The new East Span of the Bay Bridge debuted on Google Earth in December 2008, the first time Google featured a construction project in the

program, enabling users to envision the finished bridge. Visitors to the site can see the Bay Bridge from any angle as well as experience the bridge in ways they cannot in the real world, from “driving” across the side-by-side decks of the new East Span to “climbing” the SAS’s 525-foot-tall tower.

“There are now more than 600 million people around the world who can have a personal understanding of the visual impact of this new bridge,” said Michael Jones, Google’s chief technology advocate. “We’re proud to do our part to provide the tools to make that possible.”

Users will see how construction of the SAS is progressing, and, when clicking on the bridge, can click-through to the project Web site **BayBridgeInfo.org**, where they will

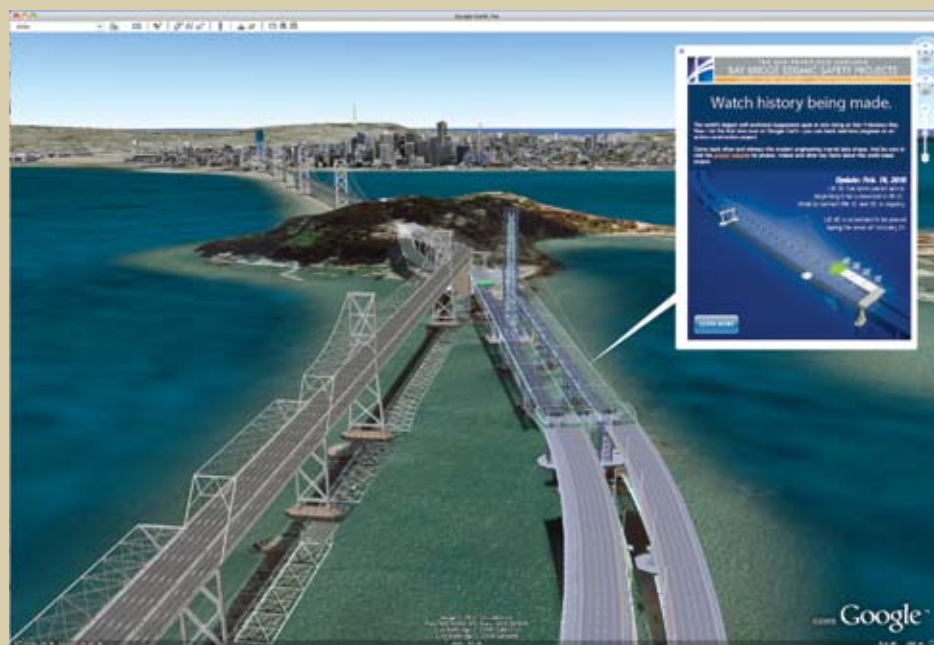
find detailed real-time information on each SAS deck lift, from size and weight to high-resolution videos and photos showcasing various facets of the construction process.

“Google Earth’s immersive environment combined with the in-depth media we’re going to provide on BayBridgeInfo.org will be the next best thing to being there,” said Ney.

The new East Span is a joint project of the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, consisting of Caltrans, MTC’s Bay Area Toll Authority and the California Transportation Commission.

Deck and tower sections will appear green on Google Earth as they are being lifted, and will turn solid after they are in place.

For additional information and photos of the East Span construction project see pages 10-11.



Positive News on Maritime Security and Port Prosperity

BY PATRICK BURNSON

The California Maritime Academy Department of Sponsored Projects and Extended Learning (SPEL) received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security administered through the California Emergency Management Agency. The funds will support curriculum development and delivery of DHS-approved training courses to California emergency responders and maritime industry professionals. The courses will be delivered tuition-free to qualified residents of the state and to individuals employed by certain regulated entities within the state.

SPEL will deliver the First Responder Operational Maritime Security Course up to six times at various locations. The training is designed for first-response personnel who may respond to incidents on vessels or facilities regulated under the Maritime Security Transportation Act of 2002.

SPEL will also deliver its Combined Company, Vessel, and Facility Security Course up to six times at various locations throughout the state. The target audience is prospective or designated Company, Facility, or Vessel Security Officer (CSO, FSO, or VSO) personnel. This course qualifies licensed mariners for their VSO endorsements as required by 33 CFR 104.215(d).

Another portion of the grant will underwrite SPEL development and delivery

of an Advanced Vessel Security Course designed to teach skills needed to survive a vessel terrorist or piracy incident. SPEL plans to deliver the course in Humboldt, San Diego, Los Angeles/Long Beach and at its Vallejo campus. It will serve individuals designated as Facility Security Officers or holding Merchant Mariner Credentials with VSO Endorsement.

Finally, SPEL will facilitate and document the development of a statewide curriculum plan for land-based firefighters and aquatic rescue personnel who respond to fires and incidents aboard vessels, both onshore and offshore. Working directly with California State Fire Training, members of the California Surf Lifesaving Association, fire departments and marine operators, Cal Maritime will identify the curriculum elements of a comprehensive marine firefighting response and aquatic rescue program. Program components will include but not be limited to vessel familiarization, training considerations, pre-incident planning, and special hazards encountered by land-based firefighters to extinguish vessel fires safely, and efficient execution of rescue/fire response vessel operations.

Port of Oakland Looks Forward to a Better 2010

While acknowledging that the past year was disappointing, the Port of Oakland's maritime director is telling shippers that 2010 shows more promise. "The Port of Oakland has met the challenges of a transformative 2009, and we are buoyed

by stronger economic signals and trade growth on the horizon," said James Kwon, the port's maritime chief, in a letter to major clients.

Among the achievements recognized by Kwon is the recently-signed 50-year agreement with Ports America to operate Berths 20 – 24. He also lauded the Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan, which represents the port's blueprint for reduction of emissions by 85 percent by 2020.

"In June, we achieved another major environmental success with the adoption of the Comprehensive Truck Management Program (CTMP), which in part bans pre-2004 trucks from serving the port that have not been retrofitted to reduce diesel particulate matter," Kwon noted. Recent reports suggest that more than 90 percent of trucks serving the port are in compliance with these requirements.

"The CTMP does not introduce any new fees, minimizes bureaucratic burdens, and allows both independent owner-operators and employee drivers to continue to serve the port," said Kwon.

Like all West Coast ocean cargo gateways, Oakland saw a decline in container throughput. Kwon admitted that this was disappointing, but, in relative terms, not a crisis. "Our 2009 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) volumes were down only 8 percent from 2008," he admitted. "But our outbound volume actually increased 6.5 percent. These numbers reflect strong performance in a weak global economy, and are the healthiest of any U.S. West Coast port."

Oakland also joined the five other major West Coast ports, together with Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway, to create the U.S. West Coast Collaboration. This group will collectively market the advantages of the Pacific Rim.

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- Every Saturday** **12PM – 2PM or 2:30PM - 4:30PM - Introduction to Sailing Course, OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 510-843-4200, www.ocscsailing.com**
This two-hour skippered charter is designed to provide folks who are considering getting into sailing a real glimpse of the sport, our club and our people. Cost \$40.
- March 3** **6PM – 8PM - Cruising the Delta, Club Nautique - Sailing School 510-865-4700, www.clubnautique.net**
Winter Wednesday Seminar Series presented by field experts. Seminars are informational and highlight various aspects of the boating lifestyle. Cruising the Delta – Presented by Bill Wells of the Bay and Delta Yachtsman. Reservations required. Free!
- March 6** **10AM – 3PM - Boat Survey/Purchasing Seminars, Tradewinds Sailing School & Club, 510-232-7999 www.tradewindssailing.com**
From 10AM to 1PM Randy Sharpe will be presenting the ins and outs of boat surveys. Learn about the things surveyors are looking at, what's important to insurance companies and why, and what items you can check yourself when boat shopping. This is a great presentation for anyone considering doing some boat shopping!
From 1PM to 3PM Jim Tull from Passage Yachts will present the options for buying a boat. As a yacht broker, he will answer questions about the boats themselves, financing options, tax options, and charter opportunities. If you are thinking of buying a boat at some time in the future, you don't want to miss this. One or both seminars are \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members.
- March 6** **6PM – 10PM - Moonlight Sail, OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 510-843-4200, www.ocscsailing.com**
This two-hour skippered charter is a great way to break up a long week. We'll be sailing from 6 to 8 pm and follow that with a chili and chowder social. Don't miss this great opportunity for a mid-week break! Cost is just \$40.
- March 13** **10AM – 3PM - Bair Island - Corkscrew Slough Kayak trip, California Canoe & Kayak, Redwood City, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com**
Cruise through a paddler's paradise of intimate waterways and tidal marshes within a national wildlife refuge. This is a fun day of easy paddling in a spectacular, calm-water wonderland right in our own backyard! \$89, includes kayak, guides, and all gear.
- March 14** **10AM – 2:30PM - Tomales Bay Kayak Tour, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222, www.outbackadventures.com**
Experience one of the premier paddling destinations in California on this guided kayak tour. Wildlife abounds in this spectacular setting. One of the largest protected bay and coastal areas in California, this kayaker's paradise is a short distance from San Francisco and the Bay Area.
- March 17** **6PM – 8PM - Mystery of the Tides, Club Nautique - Sailing School 510-865-4700, www.clubnautique.net**
Winter Wednesday Seminar Series presented by field experts. Seminars are informational and highlight various aspects of the boating lifestyle. Mystery of the Tides – Presented by Joe Brandt, Club Nautique instructor. Reservations required. Cost: Free!
- March 17** **7PM – 9PM - Virginia Bria: Images from Dominica and Fiji, Marin Scuba Club, San Rafael, 415-453-9556, www.marinclub.org**
We invite divers of all skill levels to join us the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Flatiron on 724 B Street in San Rafael for a featured presentation. We offer guest speakers discussing all aspects of diving using multi-media video presentations. Contact Alberta for more information: (415) 717-3224
- March 20** **9AM – 11:30AM - Introduction to Stand up Paddling, UCSF Outdoor Programs, Mission Bay, 415-476-2078, www.outdoors.ucsf.edu**
Try your hand at Stand Up Paddling in the San Francisco Bay! A great introduction to this growing sport; the class covers water safety, self-launching, paddling techniques, self-rescue, and endurance. We'll also discuss future paddling opportunities. Cost of \$85 includes board, paddle, wetsuit and instruction.
- March 20** **10AM – 2PM - Pillar Point Kayak tour, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com**
Kayaking is a great way to enjoy the natural setting of the lovely coastside region of Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay. Get up close and personal with harbor seals, marine birds and other wildlife. No previous experience necessary for double kayaks. \$49, includes kayak, guides and all gear.
- March 20** **6:30PM – 9:30PM – Moonlight Paddle, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222, www.outbackadventures.com**
Navigating your kayak by moonlight is a mystical experience you won't soon forget. This unique kayak tour allows for a grand view of the moon rising into the night sky. We will paddle leisurely while admiring the moon's silvery light reflecting off the water's surface.
- March 21** **8:30AM – 12:30PM - Scuba Diving in Monterey, Advanced Diving Technologies, 925-754-8180, www.adtscuba.com**
Now is the time to go diving. The days are longer and warmer and we have a later start time. So join us for diving the beautiful kelp forest and all the wonderful marine life. Come visit a special site with the giant Pacific Octopus. 2 tank dive \$90. Twin cylinders welcome and Nitrox available.
- March 27** **10AM – 2PM - Kayak Basics, Oakland Estuary, California Canoe & Kayak, Jack London Square, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com**
Are you ready to try kayaking? This half-day class (4 hours) allows you to paddle a few different types of kayaks, including Touring Kayaks (for open water), Recreational Kayaks, and Sit-on-Tops. Learn the basic strokes and the difference between boat types. This class emphasizes basic water safety, but saves capsized recovery practice for a future session. \$59, includes kayak, all gear, and a coupon for future kayak rental.
- March 29** **6PM – 9PM - Sausalito Moonlight Paddle, UCSF Outdoor Programs, Sausalito, 415-476-2078, www.outdoors.ucsf.edu**
Join us on this three-hour moonlight paddle adventure and witness panoramic views of San Francisco, Angel Island, Treasure Island, and Alcatraz as you kayak Richardson Bay. We'll outfit you with accessories to keep you comfortable and teach you the skills required to paddle safely. Cost is \$65.

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Recycled Lighthouses

BY CAPTAIN RAY

Recycling and reusing things has always been part of the landscape for some people. I can remember, as a kid in New York City, picking up and retuning soda bottles for cash—two cents for the small ones and a nickel for the large ones. But ever since the first Earth Day in 1970, the idea of recycling has become more and more part of the public consciousness. We've learned to recycle our plastic bags at the grocery store, sort our household rubbish, recycle our automotive oil, and cities are even refurbishing and reusing old buildings.

And that's what I want to talk about this month—reusing old buildings, specifically lighthouses. Typically, there were many other buildings constructed on a lighthouse site in addition to the actual light tower. Because the locations were often somewhat remote and the light needed to be tended continuously, housing for the keeper and his family was a necessity. In addition to the living quarters, the compound often included things like a stable (later a garage), a pump house and cistern for water storage, and various sheds and outbuildings. In sum, the lighthouse complex represented quite a little homestead. Along the coast just south of San Francisco, there are two wonderful examples of both the original compounds and their creative reuse.

At sunset on November 15, 1872, the lighthouse on Pigeon Point was activated. Pigeon Point, located approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco on the San Mateo coast, is named for the 175-foot clipper ship *Carrier Pigeon* that went aground near there on the evening of June 6, 1853, after spending most of the day in thick fog. The 115-foot tower is one of the two tallest on the west coast—the other is the Pt. Arena Light, 130 miles north of San Francisco.

In February 1875, another light was established about 25 miles to the north at Point Montara. The 30-foot steel tower on that site now was originally constructed for the Mayo Beach Light, on Cape Cod. In 1925, it was disassembled and reconstructed on south tip of Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay. In 1928, it moved again, this time to its present location at Pt. Montara.

Both Pigeon Point and Point Montara had housing incorporated for the keepers and their families. But, by the 1970s, the Coast Guard completed the automation of all lights. These two lights still send their beams across the water to aid mariners along this foggy, rock-bound coast, but light keepers are no longer needed. The buildings that once housed the light keepers and their families are now administered by the Golden Gate Council of Hostelling International and are available for overnight accommodations. The 30-

foot tower at Point Montara is open to visitors; unfortunately, for safety reasons the 115-foot tower at Pigeon Point is closed to the public.

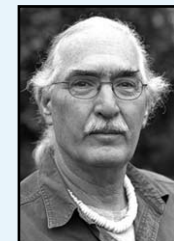
Within San Francisco Bay, there are several examples of recycling lighthouses in a different way. I'll describe one of them this month and several more next month.

In 1890, a lighthouse was established on the north side of the entrance to the Oakland Estuary. The United States Lighthouse Service constructed the present building in 1903 to house two light keepers and their families. The U.S. Lighthouse Service was incorporated into the United States Coast Guard in 1939, and the keepers and their families moved ashore. The structure remained in place until 1965, when it was moved to its present location at the Embarcadero Cove Marina in Oakland. It is now

called Quinn's Lighthouse Restaurant and Pub, offering a classic pub upstairs and fine dining downstairs.

Ray Wichmann, is a US SAILING-certified Ocean Passagemaking Instructor, a US SAILING Instructor Trainer, and a member of US SAILING's National

Faculty. He holds a 100-Ton Master's License, was a charter skipper in Hawai'i for 15 years, and has sailed on both coasts of the United States, in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Greece. He is presently employed as the Master Instructor at OCSC Sailing in the Berkeley Marina.



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Angel Island A California State park and wildlife reserve. Angel Island is both a great picnic destination with hiking, kayak tours, an hour-long fully-narrated TramTour, as well as a historical site dating back to the U.S. Civil War.

Vallejo Sail to Vallejo, a waterfront community that includes the city's Heritage District, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and family-friendly Six Flags Discovery Kingdom theme park.

Alameda & Oakland There's dining in Jack London Square, the Farmer's market on Sundays and jazz nightly.

**Blue & Gold Fleet at PIER 39
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CULTURAL CURRENTS

Clubs in Name Only Add to Richness of City Life

BY PAUL DUCLOS

In last month's issue, this column explored three very remarkable Bay Area clubs: The Pacific Rod & Gun Club, the University Club and the Presidio Golf Club. None of these are particularly exclusive, but they have unique features and histories that make them worth exploring.

This month we examine three "clubs" in name only. These places are open admission and don't require membership. Take the Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields in Albany, for example. For the \$15 door charge, adults can enjoy the great views of Mount Tamalpais, San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz Island and the Golden Gate Bridge. There's a good bar here, too, within close proximity of the betting windows where one can place a wager with a real person rather than one of the ubiquitous machines located on the lower levels of the track.

The Turf Club offers patrons what is described as "fine cuisine," but really is just standard fare. The hamburger is first rate, though, and the Bloody Marys are stiff and spicy.

A caveat: children are allowed, but fortunately they are required to dress and behave like adults. So, in fact, are the adults. All guests are requested to dress in refined casual style. In other words, no sweat pants, t-shirts, baseball hats and thong-style shoes. Guests who arrive in shorts of any type, tank tops, or clothing with offensive logos will be denied access.

Not so, alas, with the Occidental Cigar Club in San Francisco. But it has other virtues. Children, no matter how smartly attired, will not be admitted. This

is a "bar bar" of the top order, where one can toss dice, imbibe hard spirits, curse, and indulge in the one last remaining taboo: smoking. As the name suggests, cigars are the main attraction, but pipe and cigarette smokers are welcome, too. Mainly a guy's bar, women are permitted to use the unisex bathroom, but a sign instructs them to leave the toilet seat up when leaving.

This is an owner-operated joint located downtown, which attracts a diverse group of professionals. One might encounter the occasional bore here, but running into a city supervisor is unlikely. Another sign on the wall says it all: "Smoking prohibited except for designated areas,

such as the bar, where we invite you to enjoy your cigar without threat of public stoning or fear of imprisonment."

Finally, there's the ill-named Family Billiards on Geary near Masonic. Not to be confused with the Bohemian Club's "family" affiliate, this pool hall is strictly old-school, and off limits

to anyone under 21. It features 18 well-maintained tables and a digital jukebox. There's beer and good food, too, with very reliable service provided by lavishly tattooed bar maids. The origin of the name remains a mystery, as families are not particularly evident here. But there's a decidedly tribal element in place thanks to the plentiful groups of young people who make this a destination. Really good players are encouraged to enter the tournaments—held twice a week—but novices are welcome to shoot any time. The cues Family Billiards provides are not the greatest, but many fine sticks are for sale at reasonable prices. Best of all? No strollers, crying babies, or warring spouses.

This is a "bar bar" of the top order, where one can toss dice, imbibe hard spirits, curse, and indulge in the one last remaining taboo: smoking.

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Effective April 1, 2010, free round trip SF Muni transfers to/from Golden Gate Ferry will be discontinued. Instead, TransLink customers transferring from Golden Gate Ferry or Golden Gate Transit to Muni will receive a **50-cent TransLink transfer credit** for adult fares paid to Muni.

No transfer credit given to Youth, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, or Muni Fast Pass or cash-paying customers.

Effective April 1, 2010, TransLink customers transferring from Muni to Golden Gate Ferry or Golden Gate Transit will receive a **50-cent TransLink transfer credit** for adult fares paid to Golden Gate Transit or Golden Gate Ferry. Youth, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities will receive a **25-cent transfer credit** provided they pay using TransLink.

Transfer credit given for TransLink customers only – no transfer credit given for cash-paying customers or transferring customers who used a Muni Fast Pass to pay their Muni fare.

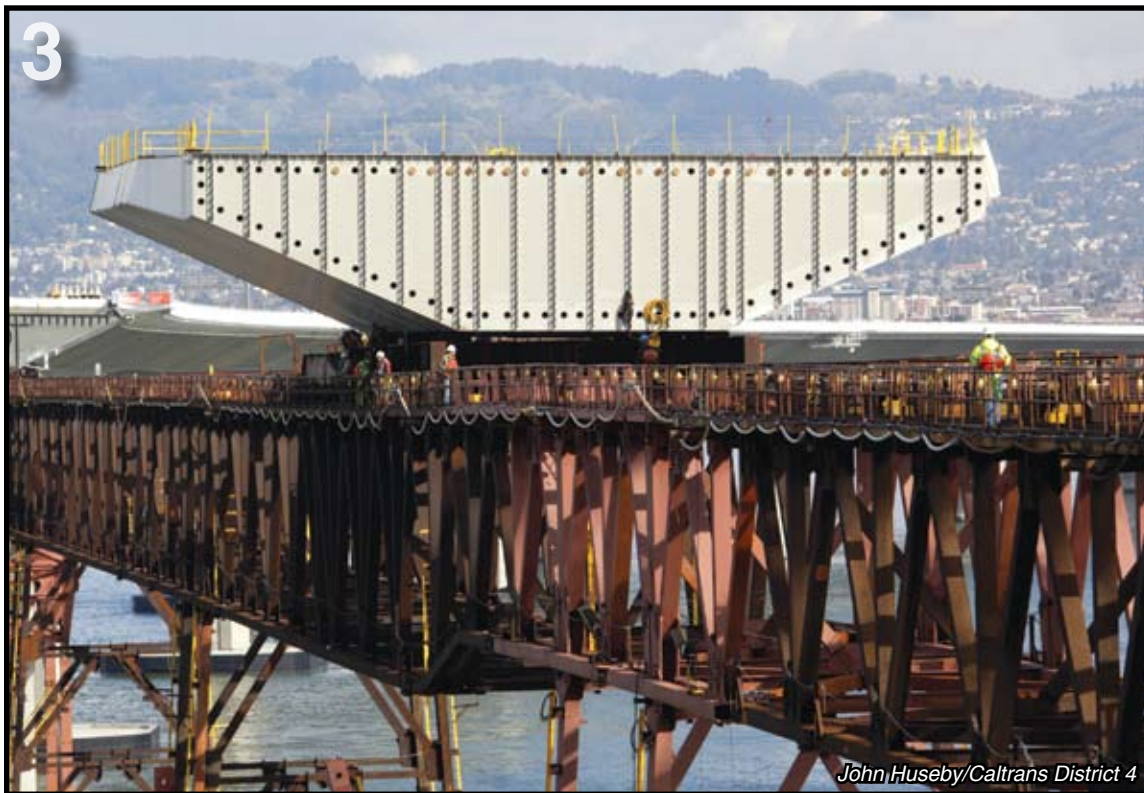
For more details, visit **www.goldengate.org** or call **511** (say "Golden Gate Transit" then "operator"), TDD 711.



John Huseby/Caltrans District 4



John Huseby/Caltrans District 4



John Huseby/Caltrans District 4

Iconic Self-Anchored

Lift, place, slide. Sounds simple enough, unless you're talking about erecting a series of ultra-heavy deck sections for the self-anchored suspension span (SAS) that will complete the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. In February, crews from American Bridge/Fluor began the tricky job of lifting, placing and sliding (photos 1 - 3) the first deck sections for the SAS. Featuring an iconic 525-foot tower, the SAS will be the crowning piece of the monumental East Span.

The first eight of 28 steel deck sections arrived at the bridge staging area at Pier 7 in Oakland by ship from Shanghai in January. After some prep work, they were transferred to barges for the final leg of their trans-Pacific journey—to the job site adjacent to Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay. There, the Left Coast Lifter—a huge crane specially fabricated for this job—has been hard at work hoisting the sections one at a time, and delicately placing them on the temporary trestles supporting the SAS. Each deck section is supported by a cradle that then slides on ski-like appendages toward its final position—an operation that can take 24 to 72 hours per piece.

“We’re beginning to close the final gap toward seismic safety on the Bay Bridge,” said Andrew Fremier, deputy executive director of the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), an arm of



ed Suspension Span Begins to Rise From the Bay

the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. “The public has waited patiently for this milestone, and the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee is excited to start this stage of the construction.” The Committee consists of top staff from BATA, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission, which together are guiding and funding the monumental East Span project.

The largest bridge of its kind in the world, the dramatic SAS will feature a single main cable that will loop over the top of the tower and be fastened to the deck itself, rather than to an anchorage. The deck sections vary in weight from 559 tons to 1,450 tons, and will be set in place at the rate of about one a week from here on. Deck and tower sections will arrive throughout the year, and the new East Span is expected to be open to both westbound and eastbound traffic in 2013.



Co-Working Facility Helps



Photo courtesy of Sandbox Suites

At Sandbox Suites' downtown San Francisco location, members can work at any open workstation, rent a private desk, or book a "team office" (pictured), which is perfect for group brainstorming sessions.

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

While working from home affords some obvious perks—such as the ability to set one's own schedule and the freedom to take business calls in pajamas—the life of a freelancer can be a lonely one. It can also leave a larger carbon footprint than you might expect. So two enterprising San Franciscans have come up with a cheap, easy and more environmentally friendly way for independent contractors to work more productively, enjoy some welcomed (and needed) human interaction, and better their professional profile.

At Sandbox Suites, a co-working facility

adjacent to San Francisco's Civic Center area, members can sidle up to any open workstation, whip out their laptops and get cracking. Workstations are available for use in increments of as little as 20 hours per week. For those who'd prefer a place to call their own, Sandbox Suites offers private desks for a little more money.

Membership includes high-speed Internet access, use of a landline phone, use of shared office equipment, the assistance of an on-site concierge and IT technician, and access to shared meeting rooms. It also affords opportunities for networking with like-minded professionals in a variety of industries—members include writers, graphic designers, web designers and small-business owners—and at-will social interaction.

Sandbox Suites' founders, Roman Gelfer and Sasha Vasilyuk, say that, while many freelancers and telecommuters are happy to leave behind time clocks, cubicles and grumpy bosses, they miss water-cooler chitchat and being able to pop their head around the corner to gab with a neighboring worker bee.

"A lot of people dream about being an independent contractor or being able to telecommute, and it's great at first," says Vasilyuk. "But after a few months, they start to actually miss having people around."

"Plus there are a lot of potential distractions to avoid when you work from home," adds Gelfer. "You've got the gardener working outside, or the cat is screaming for attention, or the

television in the other room is calling your name. Being in a more professional environment, even one as casual as Sandbox Suites, makes it easier to stay focused and motivated."



Photo courtesy of Sandbox Suites

Sandbox Suites collects its members' e-waste, including batteries and old cell phones, and properly disposes of it for them.

Freelancers Go Green

Making it easier to be green

According to Gelfer and Vasilyuk, co-working also makes it easier for independent contractors to work greener. What people seem to appreciate most about working from home is the absence of corporate-prescribed policies and procedures. Unfortunately, that includes having a system in place that, when adhered to, increases overall sustainability without much thought on the part of employees.

Aside from recycling, few home businesses have any kind of workplace sustainability program in place. A co-working program puts such a system in place for members, but leaves the other elements of corporate culture to the 9-to-5ers. "There's a lot of wasting of electricity and paper that goes on at any business," says Gelfer. "Co-working is inherently greener, because you're sharing resources." "Having one printer for 40 people just makes more sense than 40 printers," adds Vasilyuk.

The energy savings from sharing a printer and copier may be modest, she concedes. But she says that the energy

used to manufacture forty machines must also be considered, not to mention what will become of those forty machines when they inevitably need to be replaced.

Sandbox Suites has a system in place for dealing with this and other e-waste, including old laptops, cell phones and batteries. Even the most conscientious work-at-home type is tempted to toss old alkaline batteries in the trash rather than driving them to a disposal facility, as the law requires. Sandbox Suites' members can simply chuck such items into a clearly marked receptacle to be disposed of properly.

To help cut down on paper waste, Sandbox Suites' staff helps members set their computers to print duplex-style (on both sides of a sheet of paper), which immediately cuts paper usage in half.

The challenge, according to Vasilyuk, has been keeping members on the green track, which she says requires a lot of handholding. "We hold workshops periodically and do a lot of posting of reminders and directions around the office," she says. "I guess you could say we play the mother role, but that's okay. These little things may not sound like much on their own, but when you add them up, they really help."

Green at the door

Sandbox Suites is the first business of its kind in San Francisco to be Green Certified, which Gelfer and Vasilyuk say was their goal from the onset. "It's a pretty intense process," says Gelfer. "There was a checklist of at least a dozen

things that we had to do, and it took us about a year to complete."

That checklist included installing an energy-efficient lighting system (on timers) and low-flow bathroom fixtures, as well as having an enhanced recycling and composting program in place. "We use 100 percent recycled paper and recycled toner cartridges," adds Vasilyuk. "And we did away with disposable cups. We now use plastic and glass that can be washed and reused. Again, little things that add up and make a big difference. And some of these things actually save us money, which is great."

Plus, being a green business itself has helped Sandbox Suites attract members, a number of whom offer green services and products. "Being here makes sense for them," says Vasilyuk. "They're sticking to their green principles."

Sandbox Suites' members all live within walking or biking distance, or a short bus ride, away from the 10th Street location. That's key to maximizing the

green potential of such a business model, says Gelfer. In order for the co-working movement to grow, as it has throughout Europe, more co-working spaces need to open up so that members don't have to drive very far (if at all) to utilize one. Otherwise the auto emissions and time wasted in a car render co-working less effective.

"The idea is hardly a new one," says Vasilyuk. "For centuries, artists have shared spaces both out of necessity and a desire for inspiration. We're just putting sort of a technological spin on that."

"Another reason that people come here is because they need to maintain a more professional appearance," adds Gelfer. "You can't ask clients to meet you at a coffee shop, not to mention take a business call over the music in the background, and the sound of the espresso machine. Still, this is a more relaxed environment than the usual office setting."

"I'd say we're an intermediate step between the corner café and having your own fancy office," says Vasilyuk.



Photo courtesy of Sandbox Suites

Sandbox Suites' founders say that co-working is greener than working at home because multiple people are sharing resources, including office equipment and electricity.



Photo courtesy of Sandbox Suites

By simply opting to use washable (and reusable) plastic and glass cups instead of paper drinking cups, Sandbox Suites is minimizing its carbon footprint.

We All Have a Sewage Problem

BY DEB SELF

Slow drains are the first sign of trouble. A baby opossum in the potty is a real warning sign, though.

My home, constructed in 1928, had the original sectional terra cotta sewer pipes, and earthquakes and tree roots had left large openings in the pipes. A den of adolescent possums apparently had used the pipe (during dry weather) for exploring. The baby opossum that showed up in the house went to the Lindsay Wildlife museum hospital, and we called a sewer repair company.

A video inspection revealed major gaps in the pipe, meaning that not only was some sewage leaking out of the pipe, but

during heavy rains, rainwater was leaking into the pipe and helping to swell the volume of wastewater flowing into East Bay Municipal Utility District's treatment plant. Now we have new, seamless lateral line—and during rainstorms, we cut back on laundry, showers and dishwashing, to keep the volume of wastewater going to EBMUD as low as possible.

From the number of sewer repair vans I see in my neighborhood, I know that many private sewer lines are also in bad shape. That's one essential way you can take action at home to protect the Bay from sewage spills: have your lateral line inspected and, if necessary, replaced by a company that is certified to connect your line to the city's sewer pipe.

Likewise, our cities' sewage collection pipes are generally quite old and in an

awful state of disrepair. Running under the center of each street, the sewer main is joined by perpendicular lateral lines that carry sewage from each home and business to the city's main. Because the sewer mains were put down when the neighborhoods were constructed, thousands of miles of sewage pipes in the Bay Area (and across the country) are as old as the building booms that followed World War I and World War II.

You can see traces of the underground sewage pipes in the patterns of potholes, especially in older neighborhoods. Notice that residential roads have potholes running down the center of the street, where leaking sewage lines have

eroded the soil supporting the road from underneath. Often, our cities have repaired the same potholes year after year without replacing the cause of the problem—old, leaking pipes beneath the road. Such deferred maintenance has led to rampant sewage clogs and backups throughout the Bay Area that allow rainwater to seep into the system and swell the amount of sewage heading downstream to Bay Area's 40 treatment plants. Often overwhelmed by these massive flows, the treatment plants release millions of gallons of raw or undertreated sewage directly into the Bay every year.

Predictably, this year's first big storm triggered rampant sewage spills, leading to polluted waterways and beach closures across the Bay Area. In late January, nearly 700,000 gallons of raw or undertreated sewage was forced into the Bay throughout the Bay Area, from Sausalito to Richmond to Mountain View. Additionally, EBMUD's overflow facilities released more than 170 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the Richmond and Oakland harbors.

Sewage spills can be disastrous for our local creeks and the Bay. Bacteria in sewage often causes rashes and infections for the

swimmers, kayakers, windsurfers, wildlife and pets that are in and around the Bay year-round. The excess nutrients in the sewage also can deplete oxygen for fish and aquatic wildlife, and the wastewater can contaminate food sources.

Unfortunately, on a regional scale, our sewage systems still aren't being operated in way that is financially or environmentally

sustainable. While repair costs can be steep, cities generally pay much more the longer they wait to do repairs. And all sewage districts collect fees for sewer maintenance; sometimes they just need public pressure (or a lawsuit) to spend the money now. The Environmental Protection Agency has said that sewer pipes

should have no more than two spills per hundred miles of pipe each year, but many cities in the Bay Area have rates fifty to sixty times higher than that. Through our Sick of Sewage Campaign, Baykeeper is working with cities to prioritize their repairs, and we're having good success at compelling many overdue improvements.

Please join our efforts. Ask your local city council member, board of supervisor and elected sewer district board members what your community's plan is to upgrade your local sewer system. Visit www.baykeeper.org for more information.

Predictably, this year's first big storm triggered rampant sewage spills, leading to polluted waterways and beach closures across the Bay Area.



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Deb Self is Executive Director of San Francisco

Baykeeper, which uses science and advocacy to enforce clean water laws and hold polluters accountable.

Deb has 25 years of experience in environmental advocacy and non-profit management, and enjoys paddling the Bay and walking its shorelines.



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Golden Gate Ferry

LARKSPUR*

Weekdays (excluding Holidays)				Weekends and Holidays			
Depart Larkspur	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Larkspur	Depart Larkspur	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Larkspur
5:50 a.m.	6:20 a.m.	6:25 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	09:40 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	-----	-----
6:35	7:05	7:10	7:40	11:40	12:30 p.m.	12:40 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
7:10	7:40	7:45	8:15	1:40 p.m.	2:30	2:40	3:30
7:50	8:20	8:30	9:05	3:40	4:30	4:40	5:25
8:20	8:50	9:10	9:45	5:30#	7:00	7:15	8:00
9:15	9:50	10:10	10:45	One-way Ferry Fares			
10:10	10:45	10:55	11:30	Larkspur Sausalito			
11:10	11:45	11:55	12:30 p.m.	Daily Daily			
11:40	12:15 p.m.	12:25 p.m.	1:00	Adult Cash Fare \$7.85 \$7.85			
12:40 p.m.	1:15	1:25	2:00	TransLink \$4.90 \$4.20			
2:15	2:50	3:00	3:30	Senior/Disabled/ Medicare/Youth (6-18) \$3.90 \$3.90			
2:50	3:25	3:35	4:05	Children 5 and under Free Free			
3:40	4:15	4:25	4:55	Children ages 5 and under travel free when accompanied by a full fare paying adult (limit two youth per adult).			
4:15	4:45	4:55	5:25				
-----	-----	5:20	6:05				
5:10	5:45	5:55	6:25				
5:35	6:10	6:20	6:50				
6:35	7:10	7:20	7:50				
7:20	7:55	8:10	8:40				
8:10	8:45	8:50	9:20				
8:50	9:25	9:35	10:05				

* Direct ferry service is provided to most Giants games at AT&T Park. Special service is provided to various concerts and the Bay to Breakers Race. On weekdays, with the exception of the 5:20pm San Francisco departure which uses a 715 passenger Spaulding vessel, all other trips use high-speed catamarans. Weekend service is provided by a 715 passenger Spaulding vessel.
To San Francisco via Sausalito.

SAUSALITO

Weekdays (excluding Holidays)				Weekends and Holidays			
Depart Sausalito	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Sausalito	Depart Sausalito	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Sausalito
7:10 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	8:10 a.m.	-----	-----	10:40 a.m.	11:10 a.m.
8:20	8:45	10:15	10:45	11:20 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
10:55	11:25	11:35	12:05 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:25	1:55
12:15 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	12:55 p.m.	1:25	2:10	2:40	2:50	3:20
1:55	2:25	2:35	3:05	3:50	4:20	4:45	5:15
3:20	3:50	4:00	4:30	5:35	6:05	6:30	7:00
4:45	5:15	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	---	---
6:10	6:35	6:45	7:10				
7:20	7:50	7:55	8:20				

Contact Information Toll free 511 or 711 (TDD) For the Golden Gate Ferry website, visit: <http://goldengateferry.org/> Comments and questions can be submitted at <http://ferrycomments.goldengate.org/>

Holiday service is in effect on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and the day after Thanksgiving Day (Sausalito). The Larkspur line operates on a Modified Holiday Schedule on the day after Thanksgiving Day. No ferry service on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Bay Area Ferry Terminal Locations

Alameda Ferry Terminal
2990 Main St. in Alameda

Harbor Bay Ferry Terminal
2 McCartney Drive in Alameda

Larkspur Landing Ferry Terminal
101 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd., just east of U.S. Highway 101 in Larkspur, CA

Oakland Ferry Terminal
530 Water St @ Jack London Square in Oakland

Sausalito Ferry Terminal
Humbolt St. & Anchor Ave. in downtown Sausalito

Tiburon Ferry Terminal
Behind Guaymus Restaurant & the Intersection of Tiburon Blvd. & Main St. in Tiburon

Vallejo Ferry Terminal
289 Mare Island Way in Vallejo

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WETA



Blue & Gold Ferry

ALAMEDA/OAKLAND

ALAMEDA/OAKLAND

Weekdays to San Francisco				Weekends and Holidays to San Francisco			
Depart Oakland	Depart Alameda	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive S.F. Pier 41	Depart Oakland	Depart Alameda	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive S.F. Pier 41
6:00 a.m.	6:10 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	-----	10:00 a.m.	10:10 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
7:05	7:15	7:35	-----	11:30	11:20*	12:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.
8:10	8:20	8:40	-----	1:45 p.m.	1:30 p.m.*	2:20 p.m.	2:35 p.m.
9:15	9:25	9:45	10:00 a.m.	4:15	4:05*	4:45	4:55
11:00	10:50*	11:30	11:45	5:45	5:35*	-----	6:25
12:45 p.m.^	12:35 p.m.*	1:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	7:10	7:00*	-----	7:50
2:30	2:20*^	3:00	3:10	Weekends and Holidays from San Francisco			
4:40	4:30*^	5:10	-----	Depart S.F. Pier 41	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Alameda	Arrive Oakland
5:50	5:40*^	6:15	-----	9:15 a.m.	9:25 a.m.	10:10 a.m.	9:55 a.m.
6:20	6:10*	-----	7:00	10:50	-----	11:20	11:30
6:55^	6:45*^	7:20	-----	1:00 p.m.	1:10 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:45
7:55^	7:45*	8:20	-----	3:30	3:45	4:05	4:15
8:55^	8:45*	-----	9:25	5:00	5:15	5:35	5:45
Weekdays from San Francisco				6:30	6:40	7:00	7:10
Depart S.F. Pier 41	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Alameda	Arrive Oakland				
-----	6:30 a.m.#	7:15 a.m.	7:05 a.m.				
-----	7:35#	8:20	8:10				
-----	8:40#	9:25	9:15				
10:15 a.m.	10:30	10:50^	11:00^				
12:00 p.m.	12:15 p.m.	12:35 p.m.^	12:45 p.m.^				
1:45	2:00	2:20^	2:30^				
3:45	4:10	4:30^	4:40^				
-----	5:20	5:40	5:50				
5:20	5:45	6:10	6:20				
-----	6:25	6:45	6:55				
-----	7:25	7:45	7:55				
-----	8:25	8:45	8:55				

No ferry service on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Presidents Day. Regular weekday service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FARES: One Way Round Trip 10 Ticket Book 20 Ticket Book Monthly Pass

Adult (13+)	\$6.25	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$170.00
Junior (5-12)	\$3.50	\$7.00			
Child under 5*	FREE	FREE			
Senior (65+)*	\$3.75	\$7.50			
Disabled Persons*	\$3.75	\$7.50			
Active Military	\$5.00	\$10.00			

PURCHASE TICKETS ONBOARD THE FERRY or at the Regional Transit Connection (RTC) at participating Bay Area businesses. Please call the 24-hour Ferry Fone at (510) 522-3300 to confirm times.

Seniors must show valid I.D., Regional Transit Connection Discount or Medicare Card. Disabled Persons must show a Regional Transit Connection Discount Card. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by an adult. Active Military Personnel must show military I.D. Fares subject to change. All times are estimates.

* To S.F. via Oakland # To Alameda via Oakland
^ Departs immediately after loading
For the most current schedule, visit <http://www.eastbayferry.com/>

Schedule information collected from <http://www.eastbayferry.com>

Blue & Gold Ferry

BAY CRUISE				SAUSALITO			
Depart Pier 39				FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41			
Weekdays		Weekends and Holidays		Weekdays			
10:45 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	10:45 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	Depart S.F. Pier 41	Arrive Sausalito	Depart Sausalito	Arrive S.F. Pier 41
12:00 p.m.	4:00	12:00 p.m.	3:15	11:00 a.m.	11:40 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m.
1:15		1:15	4:15	12:15 p.m.	12:55 p.m.	1:05 p.m.	1:25
		1:45		1:35	2:10	2:20	2:35
				2:45	3:35	3:40	4:00
				----	----	8:00	8:20
* Does not operate after Sept. 7 For the most current schedule, visit www.blueandgoldfleet.com Bay Cruise does not operate during inclement weather. Additional cruises may be added on demand. Check with ticket booth on day of sailing for schedule. No reserved seating available.				Weekends and Holidays			
FARES: All prices include audio tour.				Depart S.F. Pier 41			
Adult	\$24.00	Junior (12-18)	\$20.00	Arrive Sausalito	Depart Sausalito	Arrive S.F. Pier 41	
Senior (62+)	\$20.00	Child (5-11)	\$16.00	10:35 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	12:20 p.m.
Discount fares available at http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com/Sightseeing/Boat/baycruise.cfm				12:30 pm	1:20 p.m.	1:25 p.m.	1:50
ANGEL ISLAND - S.F.				2:00	2:45	2:50	3:15
Weekdays - Daily Departures Pier 41				3:20	4:25	4:30	4:45
Depart Pier 41	Arrive Angel Island	Depart Angel Island	Arrive Pier 41	No service on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day / Weekend Schedule on Presidents Day			
10:00 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	3:20 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	FARES: One-way Round-trip			
Weekends - Departures Pier 41				Adult	\$9.50	\$19.00	
Depart Pier 41	Arrive Angel Island	Depart Angel Island	Arrive Pier 41	Child (5-11)	\$5.25	\$10.50	
10:35 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	12:20 a.m.	For the most current schedule, visit http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com/Ferry/Sausalito/index.cfm			
-----	-----	3:50 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	TIBURON - Pier 41			
Angel Island - Pier 41 Round-Trip Fares				Weekdays			
Adult (12+)	\$15.00			Depart S.F. Pier 41	Arrive Tiburon	Depart Tiburon	Arrive S.F. Pier 41
Child (ages 6-12)	\$8.50			11:00am	11:20am	11:25am	12:10pm
Child (5 & under)	Free			12:15pm	12:35pm	12:40pm	1:25
* All prices include State Park Fees / Weekend Schedule on Memorial Day (May 25) / Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (Sept 7)				1:35	1:50	1:55	2:35
TIBURON COMMUTE				2:45	3:05	3:10	4:00
TIBURON - S.F. Ferry Building				4:05	4:45	-----	-----
Weekdays				-----	-----	7:45	8:20
Depart Tiburon	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Tiburon	* Fridays only ^ Via Sausalito visit www.blueandgoldfleet.com			
6:00 a.m.	6:20 a.m.	-----	-----	TIBURON Weekends and Holidays			
6:50	7:10	7:15 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	Depart S.F. Pier 41	Arrive Tiburon	Depart Tiburon	Arrive S.F. Pier 41
7:50	8:10	8:15	8:35	10:35am	11:20am	11:35am	12:20pm
8:45	9:05	-----	-----	12:30pm	12:55pm	1:05pm	1:50
-----	-----	4:25 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	2:00	2:25	2:30	3:15
5:00 p.m.	5:20 p.m.	5:25	5:45	3:20	4:05	4:10	4:55
5:50	6:10	6:15	6:35	FARES: One-way Round trip			
6:40	7:00	7:15	7:35	Adult	\$9.50	\$19.00	
				Child (5-11)	\$5.25	\$10.50	
				20 Ticket Commute Book	\$140.00 (Mon. - Fri.)		

Baylink Ferry

VALLEJO		
VALLEJO - SAN FRANCISCO		
Weekdays		
Depart Vallejo to S.F. Ferry Building	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg. to Vallejo	Depart Pier 41 Fisherman's Wharf to Vallejo
5:30 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	-----
6:30	7:35	-----
7:00	8:10	-----
7:45	8:55	-----
8:45	9:55	-----
10:00	11:10	11:30 a.m.
11:30	12:40 p.m.	-----
2:00 p.m.	3:30	3:10 p.m.
3:20	4:30	-----
4:05	5:15	-----
4:45	6:00	-----
5:35	7:05	6:45
Weekends and Holidays		
10:00	11:10	11:30
11:30	12:40 p.m.	-----
1:00 p.m.	2:10	-----
3:30	5:00	4:40 p.m.
6:30	8:00	7:40
FARES: One-way		
Adult (13-64)	\$13.00	
Senior (65+)/Disabled/Medicare	\$6.50	
Child (6-12)	\$6.50	
Baylink DayPass	\$24.00	
Baylink Monthly Pass (Bus / Ferry) w/Muni	\$290.00	\$330.00
Call (707) 64-FERRY or visit www.baylinkferry.com for updated information.		
Travel time between Vallejo and San Francisco is approximately 60 minutes.		

Red & White

BAY CRUISE	
Pier 43½	
Monday through Sunday	FARES:
10:00 a.m.	Adult (18+) \$22.00
10:45 *	Youth (5-17) \$16.00
11:15	Child (under 5) Free
12:00 p.m.	Family Pass \$69.00 (2 Adult + 4 Youth)
1:15	* Weekends Only
1:45 p.m.	
2:30	
3:00	
3:45	
4:15 *	

Harbor Bay Ferry

EAST END OF ALAMEDA/S.F.			
Depart Harbor Bay Island	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Harbor Bay Island
6:30 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
7:30	7:55	8:00	8:25
8:30	8:55	4:35 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
-----	4:30 p.m.	5:35	6:00
5:05 p.m.	5:30	6:35	7:00
6:05	6:30	7:35	8:00
7:05	7:30		
No weekend service			
FARES:			
Alameda Harbor Bay Ferry passengers can purchase Ferry tickets, passes and books on board the ferries. Alameda Harbor Bay Ferry accepts cash, checks, Visa, Mastercard and Commuter Checks as payment for ferry tickets.			
Fare:			
One-way Adult		\$6.50	
One-way Juniors (5-12)		\$3.25	
Children (under 5)		Free	
One-way Seniors (62 & over)		\$3.75	
Disabled		\$3.75	
Active Military		\$5.25	
One-way Commute (book of 10)		\$55.00	
One-way Commute (book of 20)		\$100.00	
Monthly Pass (book of 40)		\$185.00	
Free MUNI and AC Transit Transfers Provided			

Angel Island Ferry

TIBURON - ANGEL ISLAND			
Weekdays			
Monday through Friday ferry service is by advance reservation for groups of 25 or more. Individuals may "piggyback" with scheduled groups. Visit www.angelislandferry.com for more information.			
Weekends			
10:00 a.m.	11:00	1:00 p.m.	3:00
10:20 a.m.	11:20	1:20 p.m.	3:30
FARES:			
Adult (13 and over)	Round Trip		(*Limit one free child, ages 2 and under, per paying adult.)
Child (6 - 12)	\$13.50	\$11.50	
Children (3 - 5)	\$3.50		
Toddlers (ages 2 and under)	Free*		
Bicycles	\$1.00		
For the most current schedule and other information, visit http://www.angelislandferry.com/			
Schedule Subject to change w/o notice			



Fun on Ferries, Shoreline Snacking and Shopping, Take the Kids, Bikes on Boats, Fun on Ferries...

AROUND THE BAY IN MARCH

King Me!

Come to the Great San Francisco Crystal Fair and you will find a magical mix of crystals, beads, minerals, jewelry and metaphysical healing tools. Thousands of items will be available at excellent prices, plus you can find gifts and jewels galore. Over 40 exhibitors will dazzle you with their vast storehouse of brilliant gemstones and shamanic wisdom. They include vendors from around the country and exotic places like Nepal, Bali, Afghanistan and China. Christopher Emmer of Excalibur will be selling that same Libyan Desert Glass that was used to fashion King Tut's jewelry. Libyan Desert Glass was formed when a meteorite exploded above the Egyptian desert some 28 million years ago, leaving a pale yellow-

to-green impact glass over a huge area. Many esoteric schools now call it the "rock of the god" and Egyptians were making sophisticated jewelry thousands of years ago out of this beautiful material. Many other extraordinary jewelers, mineral collectors and vendors will also be displaying their wares at the Crystal Fair. Everything on display is unique and



beautiful and most of it is quite affordable. The event takes place March 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and March 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort Mason Conference Center Building A located at Laguna & Marina Blvd. Admission is \$6 and is good for both days. For more information, call (415) 383-7837

Volunteers of America

If your New Year's resolution list included volunteering more, connecting with nature, giving back to our public lands, meeting people with like-minded interests or having more fun, American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations can provide you with the opportunity to check off those resolutions with ease. Entering its fourth decade of stewardship, Volunteer Vacations offers participants one of the most affordable, fulfilling ways to explore and improve our nation's recreational trails. Volunteer Vacations are typically week-long trail building projects on America's public lands. Each crew consists of 6-15 volunteers accompanied by an experienced crew leader. Trips range from easy to very strenuous and offer both backpacking and daypacking options. Families can enjoy front-country projects and cabin stays, while those looking for a more physically challenging trip

can experience nature by hiking into base camp. Tools, food and project supervision are included and most trips do not require prior experience. All trips provide free time to explore the surrounding landscape, hike, or enjoy the cultural offerings of nearby attractions. To learn more about American Hiking Society and view the 2010 Volunteer Vacation's trip schedule, visit www.AmericanHiking.org or call (301) 565-6704.

Calling All Cats

The Raven Players is proud to announce pre-audition information for Cats coming to their stage for the first time ever in the North Bay. A true musical phenomenon, Cats opened in New York City and ran for 18 years making it one of Broadway's longest running shows. It is Andrew Lloyd Webber's finest score featuring the haunting song "Memory." Auditions will be Tuesday, March 9 and Thursday, March 11 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. or Saturday, March 13 from Noon to 3 p.m. Location is The Raven Theater, 115 North St. in Healdsburg. Actors, singers and dancers are asked to bring a prepared song to sing with or without music and wear comfortable shoes; a dancing routine will be taught. Please arrive early, no appointments are necessary. Performances will be in Healdsburg in June and July of 2010 and rehearsals will start in April. For more information, please email degaetanojohn@yahoo.com or call (707) 338-2886 or visit their website at www.ravenplayers.com.

Where Do I Go From Here?

Three artists explore the next dimension through magic, mythology, symbolism and story telling at the latest art exhibit at FLOAT Gallery. Enter the ever expanding minds of these artists dedicated to actively making the world a better place through art. Mark Wagner is a traditional and digital artist. Clayton Thiel, professor of art at Chabot College, is a sculptor of clay, stone, and bronze, and a storyteller who is restoring magic and narrative to the world of contemporary sculpture. And Salane C. Schultz is an artist and musician who uses acrylics to paints bold images on canvas or wood, usually containing elements inspired from her musical background or from nature. She also draws in charcoal, constructs hand made mixed media postcards and greeting cards with ink, colored pencil, or markers. The show runs March 1 through April 16 with an opening party on March 20, 6-9 p.m. FLOAT, located at 1091 Calcot Place, Unit # 116 in Oakland is the only

floatation center and art gallery in the San Francisco Bay Area offering new, public exhibits of local artists monthly to stimulate and challenge your senses. For more information visit www.thefloatcenter.com.

Beers to You!

Marin's favorite rite of spring, the 15th Annual Fairfax Brewfest, will take place on Saturday, March 13. The event features a dozen of the best NorCal microbrewers personally pouring their brews, live music from and delicious pub food at the historic Fairfax Pavilion. A benefit for and produced by the Fairfax Chamber Of Commerce, and hosted by Iron Springs Pub & Brewery in Fairfax. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Visit www.fairfaxbrewfest.com for more information.

Birthday Bash at Discovery Kingdom

Kick off a new year of thrilling fun on Saturday, March 6 with Vallejo's Six Flags Discovery Kingdom's three-week long celebration of Birthday Adventures in March. The event honors Jabari, their new baby giraffe, making his public debut! Plus, the event honors all of our animal all-stars celebrating their birthdays in March, including Taj the 70-year-old elephant, Brandy the dolphin and Buzz the 81-year-old sawfish. For more information visit www.sixflags.com/discoveryKingdom.



Image courtesy of Mark Wagner

To have your event or announcement considered for the Bay Crossings Around the Bay listings, please send information or a press release to: joel@baycrossings.com.

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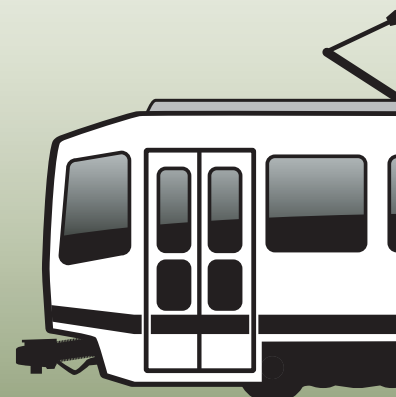
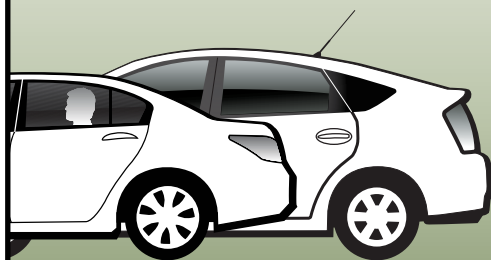
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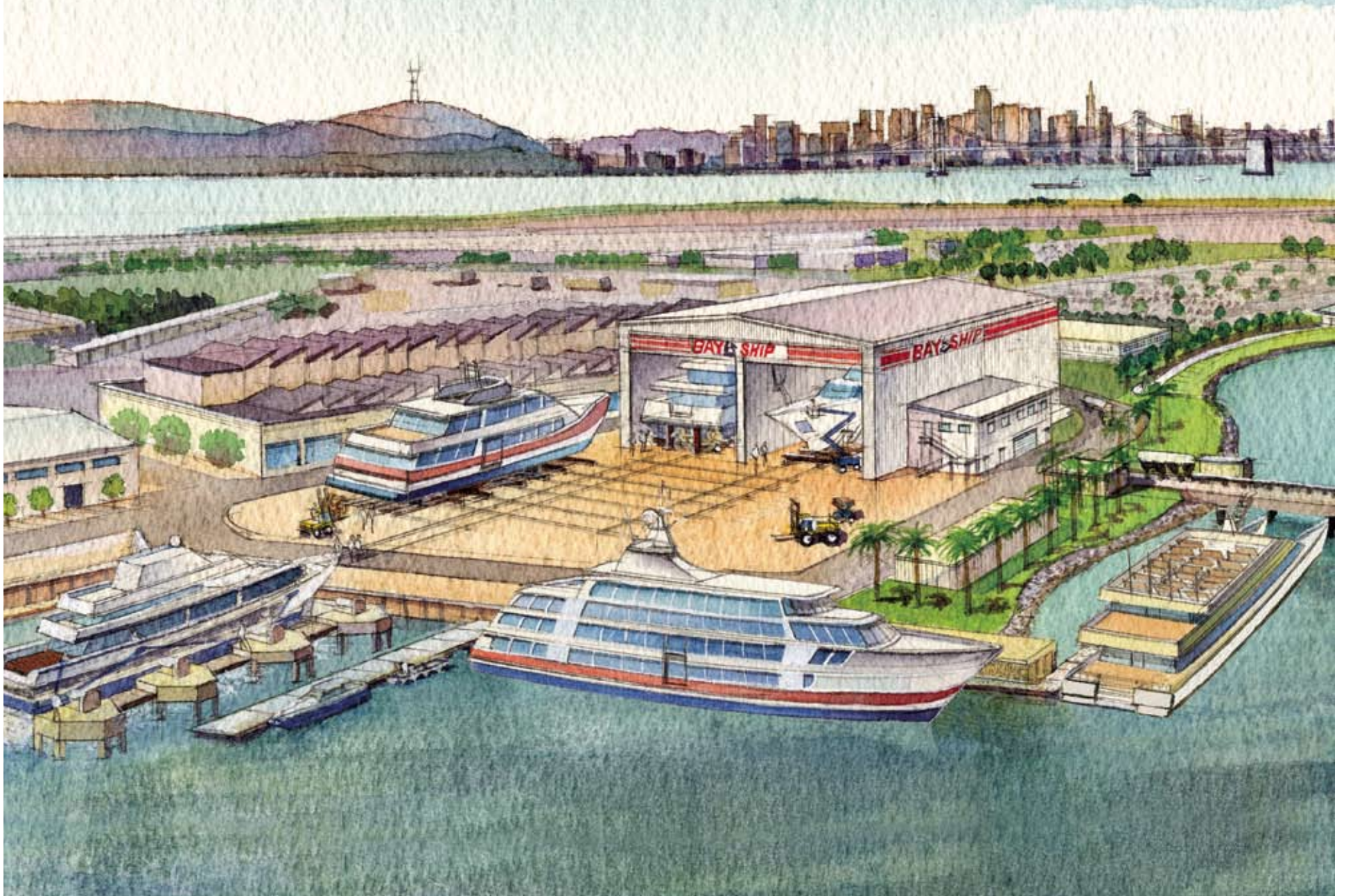
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