
Fw: Richmond-San Rafael Bridge vessel-strike risk assessment and risk-reduction plan

From Buehmann, Erik@BCDC <erik.buehmann@bcdcc.ca.gov>

Date Mon 9/14/2026 10:40 AM

To Peterson, Sierra@BCDC <sierra.peterson@bcdcc.ca.gov>; Moran, Celida@BCDC <celida.moran@bcdcc.ca.gov>

Public comment for item 8 on the agenda for Thursday.

From: Wilder Zeiser they/them <Wilder@cbeccal.org>

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 8:42 PM

To: Andrew Fremier <afremier@bayareametro.gov>; Caltrans D4@DOT <caltrans.d4@dot.ca.gov>; Buehmann, Erik@BCDC <erik.buehmann@bcdcc.ca.gov>

Subject: Richmond-San Rafael Bridge vessel-strike risk assessment and risk-reduction plan

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Dear Mr. Fremier, Mr. Nguyen, and Mr. Buehmann,

I am writing about the finding that the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge exceeds the recommended annual vessel-strike collapse-risk threshold.

Please provide the following records:

1. The complete Richmond-San Rafael Bridge risk assessment, including technical appendices, calculations, data, models, model inputs, spreadsheets, sensitivity analyses, quality-control reviews, and consultant reports.
2. The assumptions used for vessel traffic, including vessel types, dimensions, weights, speeds, routes, frequency, pilotage, mechanical failure, loss of control, impact probability, and projected changes in vessel size or traffic.
3. The assumptions and findings concerning water depth, tides, currents, wind, visibility, sea-level rise, pier exposure, fender condition, structural vulnerability, and collapse probability.
4. The bridge-specific risk value and a clear explanation of how far it exceeds the 0.01 percent annual threshold.
5. The Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment and all Richmond-San Rafael Bridge findings, recommendations, meeting materials, and working-group records.
6. Existing or proposed emergency-response, motorist-warning, bridge-closure, public-notification, evacuation, and spill-response protocols.

Please treat this as a request for public records. If any material is withheld, please identify each withheld record and the legal basis for withholding it. Please provide spreadsheets and other data in their original electronic formats.

We also request a dated, publicly reviewable Richmond-San Rafael Bridge risk-reduction plan. The plan should identify responsible agencies, decision points, public-review opportunities,

implementation deadlines, and measurable safety outcomes.

The plan should evaluate:

1. Oil tankers, chemical tankers, barges, and other vessels serving Chevron and Richmond-area terminals.
2. Potential oil, chemical, fuel, and hazardous-material releases following a collision or bridge failure.
3. Sea-level rise, rising groundwater, earthquakes, extreme weather, power failures, communications failures, and simultaneous infrastructure emergencies.
4. Effects on Richmond, Point Richmond, shoreline users, bridge workers, nearby industrial facilities, emergency access, transit, and evacuation routes.
5. Motorist-warning systems, navigation equipment, radar, lights, sensors, tug assistance, speed controls, fender improvements, pier protection, and other short-term and long-term measures.

Please develop public-notification and evacuation protocols with the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, CHP, Caltrans, the Coast Guard, emergency-response agencies, local health officials, and community organizations. The public should receive clear instructions for bridge closures, hazardous releases, sheltering, evacuation, shoreline restrictions, and alternate transportation.

Please also disclose the estimated cost of each mitigation option, its funding source, the responsible agency, the proposed schedule, and any expected effects on tolls or other public funds.

Please place this letter in the public record for BCDC's bridge-safety briefing and provide a written response identifying the schedule for releasing the assessment and draft risk-reduction plan.

Thank you,

Wilder Zeiser
Communities for a Better Environment

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