

September 15, 2026

R. Zachary Wasserman, Chair
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Agenda Item 8 – Briefing on Bridge Safety related to Vessel Strikes

Dear Chair Wasserman and Commissioners,

On behalf of the members of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), which includes marine terminal operators and ocean carriers who operate at all of California's public ports, I write to express our appreciation for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) attention to the critical infrastructure of our region and maritime safety. PMSA appreciates the opportunity to represent ocean carriers regarding the issues which are the subject of Item 8 at the September 17, 2026 Commission meeting.

PMSA is pleased that recent studies, like the completed Port and Waterway Safety Assessment (PAWSA), affirm that there are few and remote risks to the region's bridges. Furthermore, we appreciate the acknowledgment that current and future container ships are not going to many of the region's ports, including Redwood City, Richmond, Benicia, Sacramento or Stockton, and therefore are not transiting or contributing to the risk profiles of the San Mateo, Richmond-San Rafael, Carquinez, Benicia, or Antioch bridges which are highlighted for designation in the most recent risk profiles. The traffic on these bridges is of consistent vessel character and size.

Safety is paramount to all of PMSA's members, the maritime industry, mariners, bridge users, and the waters of the Bay Area, and the state, maritime community, and US Coast Guard have already spent decades instituting layers of rules, best practices, and protocols to ensure that risk is appropriately and deliberately mitigated. We look forward to working with CalTrans, MTC, BATA, and BCDC and all stakeholders to ensure that the Bay Area's tradition of safety excellence is maintained during subsequent reviews and upcoming bridge risk assessments.

Please advise how PMSA may be of assistance in future requests for additional resources to improve the region's bridge infrastructure with respect to maritime safety and impact resilience.

Sincerely,



Mike Jacob
President