

OFFICE OF MAYOR GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN



February 1, 2010

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Nancy:

Without doubt you are aware of the proposed off reservation casino development at Point Molate. This project has become an ever-increasing issue of heightened public concern not only in the City of Richmond but in surrounding regional areas. On the other hand, you may not be aware that the burden of sorting out critical multi-jurisdictional environmental, real estate, and Indian law issues is now solely the responsibility of Council and staff of the City of Richmond.

I write today seeking your assistance to resolve one of the major concerns over State water and land use policy central to the proposed Point Molate project. In the last 30 days, I have called and emailed Andrea Hoch, Legal Affairs Secretary for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. I am requesting that the Governor revise and resend his letter of September 1, 2009, as the subsequent actions of the State and Regional Water Boards have made the suggested actions of his initial letter incomplete or inaccurate. As of the date of this note, I am still awaiting a response.

The Governor's letter of September 1, 2009 was a process letter; its purpose was to ensure the transfer of the Navy land to the City of Richmond to enhance its economic viability. I do not believe it was ever intended to be a letter of support for the removal of land out of the regulatory authority of the State for a tribal casino as the developer and casino supporters have attempted to use it. Nor is it intended to provide a development zone exempt from state environmental, taxation and civil laws contrary to the purposes of the conversion of Navy land to the City of Richmond. The Governor needs to issue a revised letter that considers the events I have laid out in the attached timeline making clear his State policies for water and land use at Point Molate.

The timeline lists the recent actions for conversion of the former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate into an economic development project for the City of Richmond. The events that follow the initial letter by the San Francisco Regional Water Board present a serious

affront to environmental regulatory process. It is, after all, the San Francisco Regional Water Board that is a partner in the Land Use Convent and Deed Restrictions that guide the cleanup and future uses of the land at Point Molate. This is a State issue that the San Francisco Water Board appears to be side-stepping and dumping on the City of Richmond.

Respectfully, as Mayor of the City of Richmond, I request your assistance in approaching the Governor's office on this complex multi-jurisdictional issue affecting State process and policy. I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,



Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond