



May 25, 2005

Superintendent Brian O'Neill  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Re: Alcatraz ferry contract

Dear Brian,

It's been some time since we last spoke, and I hope that you are well. We continue to be grateful for your terrific leadership at GGNRA.

I'm writing for several reasons. First, I'd like to express Bluewater Network's most sincere appreciation for GGNRA's strong emphasis upon environmental protection in its specifications for the Alcatraz ferry contract. Given the tremendous visibility of the Alcatraz ferry system, we believe efforts to reduce air and water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and development of cleaner operating practices are extremely important and will have the potential to create important new precedents for other ferry systems domestically and abroad.

In addition, GGNRA's award of significant preferences for the protection of air quality is particularly laudable given the Bay Area's poor air quality history and continuing efforts to avoid designation, once again, as a non-attainment area. Every effort must be made to control all criteria air pollutants, particularly in regards to smog-forming emissions as well as fine particle pollutants that could impact passengers, workers, and others in the immediate vicinity of the vessels. Given's the State's recent efforts to take leadership on the issue of global warming, the same strong emphasis is necessary on the issue of greenhouse gases and we appreciate your support for proposals that would employ renewable or alternative energy sources.

At this late date, we have no desire to muddy the waters of GGNRA's ongoing bid review process. However, we would like to reiterate the concerns we have expressed over the past five years on the issue of air quality.

We strongly urge GGNRA to provide the maximum consideration and points to proposals that would lead to the development of vessels capable of shutting down their engines during dockside operations, in order to reduce particulate matter and toxic exhaust exposures in the San Francisco area. We would also appreciate the highest consideration for any proposal that may establish new air quality benchmarks for controlling other air pollutants as well as greenhouse gas emissions. By rewarding advanced propulsion systems employing renewable energy such as solar and/or wind, electric technologies, and alternative fuels, the Bay Area would launch itself into the forefront of efforts to develop of a new, cleaner generation of ferries around the nation.

As you know, since we first petitioned the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on November 10, 2000, to "employ zero-emissions technology" on the Alcatraz route, there have been many wonderful advances in ferry engines and air pollution controls. In particular, the battery hybrid-electric model of the Solar Sailor in Australia has been refined, and new hull designs that address the severe weather conditions of San Francisco Bay have been developed. In addition, the WTA has received a federal funds commitment of \$2.5 million to build a hybrid electric (plus fuel cell) ferry. The new Vallejo ferry, the Solano, is equipped with an exhaust aftertreatment system (selective catalytic reduction) that dramatically reduces air emissions. It's heartening to know that these cleaner technologies are now available, and we would be very pleased to see the best of these employed on future Alcatraz vessels.

With your continued leadership, we soon hope to see the most environmentally-friendly commercial vessels ever developed plying the Alcatraz route, and I'm sure that you will do everything in your power to facilitate that process. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Many thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Russell Long  
Vice President

Cc The Honorable Nancy Pelosi