

October 4, 2017

Hon. V. Fei Tsen - Chair  
TIDA Board of Directors  
One Avenue of the Palms, Suite 241  
San Francisco, California 94130  
Via Bob Beck <bob.beck@sfgov.org>

cc: San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim

Dear Chair Tsen:

We write as San Francisco elementary school teachers to encourage the Treasure Island Development Authority to protect Clipper Cove at Treasure Island. And we join the US Sailing Association and the Sierra Club in urging you to reject the recent marina expansion proposal forwarded by Treasure Island Enterprises.

Over the past three years over thirty-five SFUSD elementary schools as well as several private elementary schools have participated in the sailing STEM classes taught on Clipper Cove by the Treasure Island Sailing Center (TISC). The classes are full STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curricula that meet 4<sup>th</sup> grade Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They include: Ecology of the Bay, Maritime History, and Power of the Wind.

These classes are making a vital contribution to our work in the classroom, and more importantly they are making a significant contribution in the development of our students. For many of the students these classes are their first on-the-water experience of San Francisco Bay.

However, the Treasure Island Sailing Center has been explicit that the proposed marina expansion would significantly harm their programs and would significantly reduce public access (especially for beginning sailors), including a 25% reduction of the sailing area used by the STEM program. For full detail and documentation, see the April 17, 2017 note posted on the Sailing Center's website here: <https://tisailing.org/resources/news-and-press-releases>

Clipper Cove is an extremely valuable public resource. Due to unique geography it provides the extremely rare combination of good wind, flat water, and no currents. It is recognized as one of the best small boat venues on the west coast and is ideal for teaching youth sailing. About 10 times the size of McCovey Cove, Clipper cove is by far and away San Francisco's most important protected open water.

As proposed, the marina expansion would have a dramatic negative impact on public education and public recreation on the San Francisco Bay.

Under this proposal, the marina would expand from covering 7% of the Cove to covering 32% of the Cove, an expansion of 357%, permanently eliminating public access to 1/3rd of the Cove. In addition, the configuration of the marina footprint would leave only a narrow and challenging entrance to the Cove, effectively blocking beginning sailors from the Cove. High school and collegiate racing will be pushed part way out of the Cove, mandating the expense of additional safety boats as well as prompting additional racing limitations and cancellations when conditions outside the Cove become dangerous. [For documentation see at link above.]

The Treasure Island Sailing Center, through its many programs, gets thousands of people sailing out on the water every year. Most impressively, many low-income youth have a chance to learn how to sail, a chance that in all likelihood they would not have without the Center and Clipper Cove. The Sailing Center is a very special institution - no one is ever turned away. Full and partial scholarships are always available for it's summer and after-school programs. The US Sailing Association recently awarded the Treasure Island Sailing Center the Kilroy award given annually each year to a program that has made *"notable contributions in promoting public access sailing by identifying and actively including people who would normally have no access to sailing."*

By teaching youth how to sail on Clipper Cove, the Treasure Island Sailing Center is fostering a generation of Bay Area residents who understand the value of the Bay and will work to protect this vital public resource. The San Francisco Bay Plan specifically recognizes the importance of recreation to conservation: "Participating in recreation activities on the Bay and along its shoreline can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of the Bay." (San Francisco Bay Plan, reprinted March 2012, at p. 58.)

The STEM classes offered on Clipper Cove through the Sailing Center are making an invaluable contribution to our students. These classes are also providing our students with an important introduction of the San Francisco Bay. Protecting the Cove is vital to maintaining the integrity of these classes.

We urge you to protect Clipper Cove and reject the proposed marina expansion.

Sincerely,

Christine Armstrong  
Alvarado Elementary

Amy Lee  
Jefferson Elementary

Victoria Bautista  
Jefferson Elementary

Christine Linder  
Miraloma Elementary

Annie Roach  
McKinley Elementary

William Warrant  
Bessie Carmichael

Chris Weiss  
Sunnyside Elementary

Liz Zarr  
Glen Park Elementary

Jill Radwanski  
Jefferson Elementary

Liana Kholer  
Gordon J. Lau Elementary

Vivian Mak  
Gordon J. Lau Elementary

Jennifer Partika  
Argonne Elementary

Kim Towlsey  
Argonne Elementary

William Nadel  
Argonne Elementary

William Warrant  
Bessie Carmichael

El Walden  
Ulloa Elementary

Kathy Angus  
Argonne Elementary

Marta Alvarez  
Paul Revere Elementary

Mei Wong  
Alice Fong Yu Elementary

Jessica Thompson  
Daniel Webster Elementary

Patricia Juri  
Argonne Elementary

Brenda Douville  
Gordon J. Lau Elementary

Krisi Luo  
Gordon J. Lau Elementary

Zoe Wadkins  
Former Program Director and  
STEM Coordinator, Treasure  
Island Sailing Center