

Press Release

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Contact:

Deb Self, Executive Director, San Francisco Baykeeper 510-882-1882 (c) or [deb@baykeeper.org](mailto:deb@baykeeper.org)

Teri Shore, Program Director, Turtle Island Restoration Network, 415-663-8590 x104 or [tshore@tirn.net](mailto:tshore@tirn.net)

Jennifer Clary, San Francisco Tomorrow, 707- 483-6352

## **Environmental, Neighborhood Groups Welcome Release Of America's Cup Environmental Review**

San Francisco – More than 30 environmental groups greeted today's release of the America's Cup Draft Environmental Impact Report with guarded optimism. The groups said they had worked with the City on analyzing potential environmental impacts to the Bay and San Francisco waterfront from development associated with America's Cup and a new cruise terminal at Pier 27.

More than 30 community and environmental groups have formed an Environmental Council that has provided in depth feedback to city staff during development of the report. The groups say the Final Environmental Impact Report must provide not only an accounting of possible environmental impacts, but feasible commitments to preventing or mitigating those impacts.

“Our organizations are committed to a green and carbon negative event. This document is just the first step in ensuring that we get that,” said Teri Shore, Program Director of Turtle Island Restoration Network. “We need to have a thorough understanding of the impacts of the event, how they will be mitigated, and who will pay.”

Environmental and neighborhood concerns include the impact of crowds on local streets, transit and sensitive habitats in the Presidio and other viewing areas; how new construction may conflict with the Port's historic resources and planned open spaces; and the effect on the Bay's water quality and marine life of the huge number of visitor watercraft expected to come for the event.

Proper identification and mitigation of the impacts are critical, says Deb Self, Executive director of San Francisco Baykeeper. “We have an opportunity to really showcase San Francisco Bay's beauty and unique environment. We are working closely with the City to ensure that America's Cup doesn't damage the Bay in the process.”

The Council has proposed a variety of options for achieving a green event, including discouraging auto traffic on the northern waterfront by closing streets and creating more transit only lanes; promoting a green ferry to offset increased emissions, limiting single-use food and beverage containers to limit trash in the bay, and ensuring that boats properly dispose of their waste.

Neighborhoods are also braced for the impact of the event. “We know what happens on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Fleet Week,” said Jennifer Clary of San Francisco Tomorrow. “We know where crowds will congregate and where traffic will back up.” She says the environmental groups want the City to consider a congestion management district to control auto traffic on the northern waterfront for the event.

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*The Environmental Council's purpose is to ensure that America's Cup is a benefit for San Francisco Bay and its surrounding neighborhoods and historic resources, in both the short and long term.*

*A partial list of participating organizations is attached.*

## **Partial List of America's Cup Environmental Council's Participating Organizations**

ARC Ecology  
California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter  
Clean Water Action  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Golden Gate Cetacean Research  
Livable City  
Nature in the City  
Natural Resource Defense Council  
Planning & Conservation League  
Presidio Environmental Council  
San Franciscans for Reasonable Growth  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
Sea Scavenger Conservancy  
SF Tomorrow  
Sierra Club  
South End Rowing Club  
Surfrider Foundation, Marin County  
Sustainable Watersheds Alliance  
Telegraph Hill Dwellers  
The Bay Institute  
Transit Riders Union  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Walk SF