



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MARE ISLAND IS TOPIC OF VALLEJO VISIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
Group will seek funds for various downtown projects as well**

VALLEJO – City officials will be making a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C. next week in an effort to speed up the base conversion process and reuse of Mare Island.

The City will be requesting that the portion of Mare Island known as Area 1 and a section of the island known as Reuse Area 10 have separate Environmental Services Cooperative Agreements – or ESCAs. Having a single agreement for both areas – which are at opposite ends of the island – would slow down development of almost 130 acres of Area 1.

“Navy officials have told the City that they cannot (or will not) prepare separate ESCAs and early transfers for each area because of manpower and budgeting issues,” Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli said in a letter sent to Congressman George Miller. “However, this approach will certainly slow down – if not stop – the reuse of Area 1.”

Letters have also been sent to U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, as well as Congressman Mike Thompson.

Making the trip along with Mayor Intintoli will be City Manager David Martinez, and Economic Development Director Craig Whittom. Officials from Lennar Mare Island and Weston Solutions, Inc. are also expected to attend the meetings. Lennar is the master developer for 650 acres of Mare Island, while Weston Solutions was selected by the City as developer of Area 1.

“Our region needs the jobs and opportunities Mare Island can provide,” Intintoli said. “To slow down the momentum that has been built up over the last six to eight years would have a negative impact on our development plans.

(More)

Along with Mare Island issues, the City delegation also plans to lobby for grant moneys for various downtown improvements in an effort to support Triad Communities, Inc. development project. Officials will also speak on behalf of Travis Air Force Base.

Past lobbying efforts help the city secure some \$800,000 in Transportation for Livable Communities funding that is being used on the Georgia Street reopening project.

“We have offered our support in the past, and will continue to do so in the future,” said Martinez of the City’s willingness to help keep Travis open. “Closing Travis would have a major impact on the entire region, not just Fairfield.”

Vallejo officials will be in meetings with various Navy and elected officials during the trip, and will return on Thursday, Nov. 20.