



JERRY SANDERS
MAYOR

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Brian Bilbray
The Honorable Susan Davis
The Honorable Bob Filner
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
The Honorable Darrell Issa

Dear Members:

On behalf of the City of San Diego, the Sailing Events Association San Diego (SEA San Diego), and the local stakeholders identified below, I request your support in advancing federal legislation required to facilitate the America's Cup event scheduled to begin in San Diego on November 12, 2011.

Typically, America's Cup ocean events occur outside the three mile coastline territorial limit, however, this event will take place within San Diego Bay to enhance spectator participation. This event will not only bring significant international media attention to our City and the State of California, it is estimated it will provide a \$20 million economic benefit to our local businesses. Much of this economic boost will occur because of the increased number of spectators resulting from the staging of the race events further inland.

In recent days I have been advised that federal legislation is required to temporarily waive coastwise passenger laws to allow the passage and participation of foreign-flag vessels within the three mile coastline territorial limit. Under the current Passenger Vessel Act (46 U.S.C. App. 289), foreign vessels may not transport passengers and goods within ports or places in the United States without penalty. A significant number of the vessels participating in the America's Cup events will be foreign-flag vessels and each will be accompanied by support vessels to transport equipment and personnel. Thus we are requesting a temporary and limited waiver of these passenger restrictions to enable the America's Cup events to take place. To participate in the event, each vessel is required to receive a certificate from the Maritime Administration. Similar legislation was enacted in 2002 to facilitate the 2003 New World Challenge Race in San Diego (Maritime Transportation and Safety Act, P.L. 107-295, Section 211).

San Diego is the first domestic stop in the inaugural America's Cup World Series. The event is being hosted by Sailing Events Association San Diego, which is sponsored by the Port of San Diego, the San Diego Tourism Marketing District, and the San Diego Port Tenants Association, among other local organizations.

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The start/finish line will be placed just off Navy and Broadway Piers and there will be numerous waterfront viewing locations for spectators around the Bay. In addition to the race, the event will include the America's Cup Village located at Harbor Drive which will encompass activities on Broadway Pier and the U.S.S. Midway Museum, spectator grandstands, interactive displays, concession booths and a nightly entertainment schedule. Additional spectator locations will be set up on Harbor Island. The highlight race of the event on November 20 will crown the America's Cup World Series San Diego Champion and enable participants to garner points towards the overall title which will be determined during the final circuit stop in Newport, RI in 2012.

I recognize the obstacles created by the urgency of this request and I sincerely appreciate your consideration. My staff has provided briefing papers and draft legislation to your office for your review and I am happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the San Diego region.

Sincerely,



JERRY SANDERS
Mayor

Sailing Events Association San Diego

Port of San Diego

San Diego Port Tenants Association

Working Waterfront Group San Diego

San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau

San Diego Lodging Industry Association

San Diego Hotel-Motel Association

San Diego County Chapter, California Restaurant Association

San Diego Downtown Partnership

Mission Valley Tourism Council