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## **VALLEJO CONTINGENT HAS PRODUCTIVE FIRST DAY IN WASHINGTON**

VALLEJO – Mayor Tony Intintoli along with a group of Vallejo representatives had what was described as a “very productive” first day of a lobbying trip in Washington, D.C.

Intintoli, along with Vallejo chamber of Commerce Board Chairperson Connie Klimisch, Chamber President Rick Wells and officials from Lennar Mare Island and Weston Solutions, are in the capitol to seek continued progress on various Vallejo projects, including the process of early transfer and identifying funding for an Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) for the remaining property not yet transferred or cleaned up on Mare Island.

“We had a very productive meeting with Howard Kelsey, Director of Real Estate for the Navy,” Intintoli said. About 342 acres on Mare Island have yet to be transferred to the City and then on to developers.

“We’re looking to have those properties transferred for development by Weston and Lennar,” Intintoli said. “We’re looking to modify existing agreements to include those properties and determine the amount of funding needed to clean up those properties to make the transfers possible.”

Also in attendance were Pete Ceribelli of Weston Solutions and Greg McWilliams of Lennar.

“The meeting with the Navy was so positive,” said Klimisch, making her first trip to Washington on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. “They seemed very anxious to say ‘Let’s turn it all over as quickly as we can’.”

The group emphasized the significant progress made to date on the early transfer and cleanup of properties at Mare Island and the desire to keep that momentum going.

“Navy officials indicated an eagerness to cooperate with the city in accomplishing our objectives,” Intintoli said.

Officials also met with William Weagley, Government Relations Representative for the United State Postal Service, to discuss the disposition of the downtown Post Office and the City's efforts to acquire that parcel for development of the Intermodal Facility.

"I was there to impress upon Post Office officials the importance of getting that Intermodal Facility constructed in that location," said the Mayor. "By freeing up that area for development of the Intermodal Facility, we would provide a bus transfer facility, parking facility and express bus facility linking Vallejo with Napa County and the rest of Solano County cities and even Sacramento with the rest of Bay Area."

Intintoli asked Weagley to appoint a high-level negotiating team to work with the City toward a resolution of having the distribution functions relocated from downtown to another area of Vallejo.

The group also met with representatives of United States Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to make various funding requests related to Mare Island and the City's ferry service.

Specifically, requests were made for \$10 million toward a total of \$50 million needed for construction of the Intermodal Facility; \$1.5 million to finish the Bayland Discovery Center, an interpretive center on Mare Island envisioned as a location to study the San Francisco Bay and to teach children and others the importance of maintaining the integrity of the bay; \$3.5 million toward the \$16 million price tag of sanitary sewer and storm drain function; and \$1.85 million for fire suppression needs on Mare Island. A request was also made for \$250,000 for the renovation and upkeep of the cemetery at Mare Island.

"That's an important, historic place," Intintoli said. "It's the final resting place for a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient as well as daughter of Francis Scott Key." "Amelia Jenkins (an aide to Congressman George Miller) was very receptive to that request and immediately suggested that there may be at the very least matching fund available," Intintoli said. "The City and veterans groups are very concerned that the cemetery be restored to its proper condition and maintained."

Finally, Mayor Intintoli requested a language change in a TEA-21 authorization bill that would allow the City to use funds obtained from an increase in bridge tolls for the City's ferry service.

“Normally those funds are restricted to highway use,” Intintoli said. “The concept would be the removal of traffic from freeways via the ferries, so the ferries should be eligible for the use of those dollars.”

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century was enacted June 9, 1998. TEA-21 authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the six-year period from 1998 through 2003.

Chamber President Rick Wells, also on his first trip representing the City of Vallejo, was impressed with the pace of the meetings and the ability of the mayor to deliver the message in a clear and concise manner.

“The Mayor has done an excellent job accurately representing the City of Vallejo and the City’s interests,” Wells said.

More meetings are scheduled through Wednesday.