



Operations Committee
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

August 31, 2018

Dear Recreation and Parks Operations Committee;

On behalf of the Board of the Directors of the South End Rowing Club, we are writing this letter in support of the proposed lease and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the club and the Port of San Francisco.

The South End Rowing Club, a non-profit, all-volunteer operated club which is open to the public, has provided swimming, rowing, running, handball, and fitness facilities in San Francisco since 1873. We are one of the oldest sports clubs in San Francisco. We have been a tenant of The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department at our current location for over 80 years and during the past 12 years have spent over \$4 million to improve the facilities, including a recent \$2.5 mm remodel of our lower boathouse that opened in 2016. Currently we have over 1200 members and club facilities are accessed by an additional 800 visitors a year.

Over the years club members have created a rich tradition in all of our sports. Our location at Aquatic Park provides access to recreational opportunities on the bay for San Francisco residents. Members trained at the club conquer major marathon swim venues such as the English Channel, Catalina Channel, Strait of Gibraltar, Lake Tahoe, among others. We were early members of the United States Master's Swimming Association, a national swimming organization that promotes recreational swimming among adults. In the past National Handball Championships were held at the club. We regularly send members to the Head of the Charles row in Boston, which is the largest annual rowing competition in the nation. Our running tradition centers on the Dipsea trail and helps prepare members to run and compete in many area marathons.

We are asking for your support by approving a new 25-year lease for our club with an additional 24-year extension clause along with a Memorandum of Understanding (M-13733) between the Port and the club clarifying our use of our dock. Obtaining these agreements will enable us to continue operating in a low cost, economical, manner so we are widely available to as many people as possible. This is important to us because it helps us continue to create a cross generational community by allowing younger members with limited resources and older members living on fixed incomes to be active members of our club and its activities.

For the Board of Directors

Fran Hegeler
Vice-President
South End Rowing Club