UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 29, 2012

Mr. Paul Page
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Hercules Intermodal Transit Center, Hercules, California (CEQ #20120125)

Dear Mr. Page:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project in a November 15, 2010 letter. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2). Our review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) finds that most of our concerns have been addressed. We have a remaining question about the extent of dredging. The Response to Comment 2.3 states that Figure 4.9-1 shows the limits of dredging for the new channel area, but that figure does not appear to include that information. Other figures in the FEIS, such as 4.10-1, show the project boundary extending into San Pablo Bay, but none appear to explicitly show the area of proposed dredging. Please send information identifying the exact location of proposed dredging for this project to Melissa Scianni of EPA's Wetlands Office. Melissa can be contacted at 415-972-3821 or scianni.melissa@epa.gov.

We understand that continued coordination with the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), Amtrak, and Union Pacific Railroad will be required to finalize a full funding plan and travel time mitigation plan, in order to determine station stop approval from the CCJPA board.

We again commend the Federal Transit Administration and the City of Hercules for seeking to increase access to and connectivity of public transportation services, and for the inclusion of pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-use trail improvements and amenities, and the incorporation of renewable energy elements, with the goal of achieving LEED certification, in the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the Record of Decision is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Mulvihill (415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Connell Dunning

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Lisa Hammon, Assistant City Manager, City of Hercules
Ian Liffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
John Cleckler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kathryn Hart, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lindy Lowe, Bay Conservation and Development Commission