

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

**BILL EMLEN**

County Administrator  
wfemlen@solanocounty.gov

**IAN M. GOLDBERG**

Assistant County Administrator  
imgoldberg@solanocounty.gov

**DEBBIE VAUGHN**

Assistant County Administrator  
dlvaughn@solanocounty.gov



**SOLANO  
COUNTY**

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342  
(707) 784-6100  
Fax (707) 784-7975

[www.solanocounty.gov](http://www.solanocounty.gov)

July 15, 2025

RE: Deepwater Shipyard

Dear Site Selection Committee:

This letter is being submitted in support of the inclusion of Solano County as a finalist in the national site selection process for a next-generation shipyard. This opportunity aligns with the County's broader vision for strategic economic development and high-value job creation, as reflected in our 2025 State and Federal Legislative Platforms and the County's current priority initiatives.

Solano County has a proud maritime and defense heritage which includes the historic Mare Island shipyard and the very significant presence of Travis Air Force Base. The County's General Plan reinforces this legacy by designating portions of the Collinsville-Montezuma Hills area—comprising over 1,400 acres along the Sacramento River/Montezuma Slough—for future water-dependent industrial and marine terminal uses. This land use designation, which has been in place for several decades and reaffirmed in the County's 2008 General Plan update, positions the County as a unique location for potential maritime-industrial investment on the West Coast. Our understanding is that this area may be the largest vacant site on the West Coast designated for such uses, with the added attribute of direct access to the Sacramento River deep water channel.

This legislative history reflects the County's direct interest in facilitating water-dependent industrial and marine terminal uses within this planning framework that are consistent with the General Plan, including potential zoning amendments that may be required to support of a significant project aligned with the area's intended use. The fact that the area is already designated on the General Plan for such uses will allow for consideration of accelerated entitlement strategies if a specific proposal comes forward.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in good-faith discussions and explore how this vision could evolve into the type of transformative project that results in a new era of maritime development in Solano County with broad benefits at the federal, State, and local levels. Given the clear synergistic opportunities with the close geographic relationship to Travis Air Force Base and the existing Mare Island shipyard, as well as the proximity to key naval and commercial corridors, our region is uniquely equipped to serve as the home for this bold investment.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continued collaboration as the process advances. Please let us know if any further information from the County is needed to assist in the site selection process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Emlen".

Bill Emlen  
County Administrator  
Solano County