



SAN FRANCISCO BAR PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Pier 9 East End
San Francisco, CA 94111

January 5, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Francisco Bar Pilots - Critical Essential Worker Vaccine Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

As you know, the San Francisco Bar Pilots are a critical link in our global, national, and regional supply chain. Virtually every commercial ship calling in our region's ports is navigated by a San Francisco Bar Pilot. The ships come from all over the world and are crewed by personnel whose countries of origin span the globe. The value of goods movement serviced by our organization is valued in the billions of dollars. Throughout the pandemic, the Bar Pilots have facilitated the safe and timely arrival of critical goods ranging from medical equipment and supplies to groceries and other household staples. Bar Pilots serve all vessels on demand 24/7/365 and without our services the flow of commerce would come to an abrupt halt. The work that the San Francisco Bar Pilots and our employees perform is essential not only to the economy but to the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The San Francisco Bar Pilots' workforce is comprised of approximately 100 individuals with unique and highly specialized skill sets that take years to acquire. The nature of our work requires long hours in circumstances that do not allow for social distancing and we routinely come into contact with foreign crews of whom we have no health or travel history. The COVID prevention protocols we follow have thus far prevented COVID from infecting our workforce and therefore our ability to provide pilotage service. However, should any member of our workforce become infected while on duty, quarantine and other response measures will likely have an immediate impact on workplace health and our ability to provide pilotage service.

The Center for Disease Control and US Department of Homeland Security have designated maritime pilots and pilot boat crews as essential critical infrastructure workers for the determination considering vaccine priority. However, our designation within the various State,

regional and local jurisdictions is less clear. Our status is further complicated in that we perform our work across multiple jurisdictions and our workforce resides throughout California and, in some cases, out of state.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request that when evaluating the second vaccine priority phase behind healthcare workers and our most vulnerable citizens, the San Francisco Bar Pilots and our employees be included as essential vaccine recipients.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Carlier

Captain John Carlier
President

cc: Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency (via
michele.cunningham@chhs.ca.gov)
Tomás Aragón, Director, Department of Public Health
David Kim, Secretary, Transportation Agency (David.S.Kim@calsta.ca.gov)

Signature: 
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