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Peter J. Schrappen, CAE
Pacific Region Vice President & Regional Team Lead

February 26, 2026

Mr. Carl T. Hausner
Chief, Bridge Section
U.S. Coast Guard Southwest District
Coast Guard Island Building 50-2
Alameda, CA 94501-5100

Re: Preliminary Public Notice SW-
166-2026

Dear Mr. Hausner:

The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry's advocate, resource, and united voice for safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans, and coasts. As the largest segment of the nation's 40,000-vessel domestic maritime fleet, our industry safely and efficiently moves 665 million tons of cargo each year and enables the flow of goods through ports on the inland and intracoastal waterways; the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts; and the Great Lakes. On behalf of our over 300 members, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Coast Guard's Preliminary Public Notice SW-166-2026 proposal to authorize pier rehabilitation and modifications to the fendering of the Coronado bridge.

AWO supports alternative 2 – Cofferdam Dolphins. This alternative will offer enhanced flexibility for vessel operations in the region and will bring the bridge into compliance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials standards.

Safety is integral to all parts of our members' operations. Bridge transits are common, and vessel captains and crews are trained to the highest level to prevent incidents during these transits. AWO supports members' safe operations around bridges through several initiatives. These include tracking permits for new or modified bridges to ensure they meet operational needs; implementing a drawbridge delay reporting framework to help identify, report, and reduce unnecessary delays; and tracking changes to bridge protection measures and transit policies arising from investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD.

We recognize that as a result of the Key Bridge collapse and subsequent investigations by the NTSB and studies by Coast Guard on bridge safety, there is renewed scrutiny on bridge transit

safety. AWO welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Coast Guard and other stakeholders to thoughtfully consider any necessary changes to bridge transit standards or bridge protections.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Preliminary Public Notice SW-166-2026. AWO would be happy to provide any additional information or participate in further discussions as requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Schrapen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Schrapen
Pacific Region Vice President & Regional Team Lead