

## The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, Room 106  
Martinez, California 94553

**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Candace Andersen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
**Diane Burgis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
**Karen Mitchoff**, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
**Federal D. Glover**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## Contra Costa County



**David Twa**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 335-1900

May 7, 2019

State Lands Commissioners:  
Lt. Gov. Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis  
Controller Betty Yee  
Director of Finance Keely Bosler  
via Executive Secretary Jennifer Lucchesi  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Subject: Request to Proceed to Seek a New Commercial Tenant for 501 Port Street, Crockett, California**

Dear Lt. Governor Kounalakis, Controller Yee, Ms. Bosler, and Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I request that the State Lands Commission proceed to repair of the structures of 501 Port Street, Crockett, and seek appropriate commercial tenant(s) to operate businesses there for the benefit of the California public as well as the Crockett community, and not plan to demolish the buildings.

As your staff is aware, the main structure at this site has been in use as a restaurant, most recently called The Nantucket, for more than 80 years, offering generations of families the opportunity for affordable waterfront dining. It has served as a destination for day trippers by sea and land. With the recent cessation of business there, the restaurant is boarded up and a new source of blight. Its current status also eliminates safe, legal public access to the bay for miles in either direction.

Crockett is an unincorporated community for which Contra Costa County is the municipal authority. The Department of Conservation and Development is available to work with any prospective tenants to facilitate the permit process on our end. We need the state to complete the clean-up on the water side, provide ongoing maintenance on the land side, secure access via a master lease with the railroad (at a crossing which has been in effect for as long as the restaurant has been in operation), and proceed to select new tenant(s) for a restaurant, or other commercial use with regular hours open to the public, and water-oriented recreation use. This will provide meaningful public access to the bay in accordance with the State Lands Commission's mission and values.

The County's Economic Development Manager has been referring prospective tenants to the SLC staff to engage in the process for re-use of this site. Our County Code Enforcement officers and Sheriff's deputies continue to be involved in this area on a daily basis, doing our part to keep the state property held in trust for public benefit safe and secure. Meanwhile, park advocates in Crockett are developing plans for an expanded public garden and park near 501 Port Street. The community is doing its part, and we look to the State to partner by committing to re-tenant the buildings.

Please see attached newspaper article, one of many in recent months recapping the history of this site, as well as the loss in value to the public from the closure of the restaurant and the neglect that led to this point. To demolish the buildings on site, as SLC staff has mentioned as the path forward, would be to remove this public access forever, as in practice it would be cost-prohibitive to build new here, if even allowed under current regional regulations.

If you have any questions about the importance of repairing and reopening this site for public commercial uses, please contact Economic Development Manager Amalia Cunningham, AICP, at 925-674-7869 or [amalia.cunningham@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:amalia.cunningham@dcd.cccounty.us).

Sincerely,

John Gioia  
Chair, Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County  
Supervisor, District 1

cc: Supervisor Federal D. Glover, District 5  
John Kopchik, Director, Department of Conservation and Development  
Larry Goldzband, Executive Director, Bay Conservation and  
Development Commission  
Dale McDonald, General Manager, Crockett Community Services District

Encl.

## FOOD

# Longtime Crockett restaurant, The Nantucket, is closing its doors after 89 years

Dianne de Guzman\_, SFGATE Feb. 8, 2019 Updated: Feb. 8, 2019 3:55 p.m.

After 89 years, Crockett waterfront restaurant, The Nantucket, with its sweeping views of the Carquinez Bridge, is set to close this month.

The Nantucket's last day is slated for Feb. 17, an employee confirmed by phone.

The dockside restaurant has been a local haunt since its beginnings in 1930, but it hasn't always gone by the name The Nantucket. The space has changed hands over the years, according to a [2002 Chronicle review](#), and its name has changed with it: The restaurant has previously been known as Dowrelio's, Galley Seafood, and Bouillabaisse.

In 1975, the restaurant was christened Nantucket Fish Co., before its current owners took over and simplified it to The Nantucket.

The reason behind the seafood restaurant's closure is unknown, but it is the latest in a number of aging Bay Area institutions deciding to shutter. [Hs Lordships closed down after nearly 50 years in Berkeley](#) in 2018; [Lucca Ravioli Co. in San Francisco's Mission District announced plans to close on April 20](#) after 94 years.

It is unclear what will happen to the space after its closure, but The Nantucket has been subleasing its land from the State Lands Commission; the restaurant notably was [discovered to have owed \\$662,000 in unpaid rent](#) to the state, according to an article by The Chronicle in 2011.

Nevertheless, the restaurant has continued to operate just west of the Carquinez Bridge in the years following that audit, until it announced its upcoming Feb. 17 closure last month.

*SFGATE reached out to the restaurant's owners for comment and will update the article should we hear back.*

*Read Dianne de Guzman's [latest stories](#) and send her news tips at [ddeguzman@sfchronicle.com](mailto:ddeguzman@sfchronicle.com).*



3of17Crockett seafood restaurant, The Nantucket, announced it will close its doors on Feb. 17.Photo: Ellen C. / Yelp



Photo: Patricia S. via Yelp