

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

*(March 4, 2010)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at Vallejo City Hall Council Chambers, 555 Santa Clara St, Vallejo CA.

**1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Charlene Haught Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Directors present were Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli, Director Gerald Bellows, and Director John O'Rourke. Director O'Rourke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Johnson thanked the City of Vallejo for hosting the meeting and introduced Vallejo City Manager Bob Adams.

Public Comment

Mr. Adams welcomed Board and Staff to Vallejo on behalf of the Mayor and City Council and said that the city looked forward to a mutually beneficial partnership with WETA and the continuation of a first class ferry service for the people of Vallejo.

**3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Intintoli thanked the Board for traveling to Vallejo for the meeting and for touring the Vallejo ferry properties including the terminal and Mare Island maintenance facilities.

He also reported on his trip to Washington with colleagues from the Solano County Transportation Authority to promote transportation projects which the Solano County mayors had agreed upon as priorities for the county. He noted that many of these projects could have direct or indirect impact on ferry service, adding that 40% of Vallejo Baylink ferry riders reside in Vallejo, another 20% come from the rest of Solano County and the remaining 40% from adjoining counties. He noted the importance of Solano and adjoining counties as sources for potential ferry passengers and the need to continue to build relationships and work together with other North Bay communities.

**4. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Nina Rannells referred the Board to the Executive Director Report included in the board packet and offered to address any questions.

Director O'Rourke noted the item on prevailing wage and asked if staff could arrange a workshop or informational presentation on the issue for the next meeting. Ms. Rannells noted the most recent letter from the Department of Industrial Relations which was currently under staff review. Chair Johnson agreed that she would like a presentation at a future meeting and Director O'Rourke reiterated that he felt it was important the Board be informed about this issue.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Bellows made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2010 Board of Directors meeting. Director O'Rourke seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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**6. APPROVE A FY 2009/10 OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE AND AUTHORIZE FILING AN APPLICATION WITH THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR REGIONAL MEASURE 2 FUNDS TO SUPPORT THIS INCREASE**

Ms. Rannells presented this item requesting approval of a FY 2009/10 operating budget increase in the amount of \$300,000 and to authorize filing an application with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for Regional Measure 2 operating funds to support this increase. She noted that the increase would be needed primarily to support activities related to the Service Transition Spare Vessels, primarily for the dredging work required for service to Harbor Bay.

Director O'Rourke made a motion to approve the item. Vice Chair Intintoli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**7. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION SERVICES**

Public Affairs Manager, Leamon Abrams, presented this item requesting authorization for staff to issue a Request for Qualifications for professional services to represent and support WETA on state legislative matters. He noted that the current agreement with Broad & Gusman, LLP expires on June 30, and that the Board can either authorize staff to issue an RFQ for services or direct staff to renew the current contract with Broad & Gusman, LLP. Ms. Rannells clarified that it was staff's recommendation that the agency issue an RFQ as a means to identify and evaluate the pool of qualified and interested firms that might provide these services to WETA..

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the item. Director O'Rourke seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS & FACILITY TOUR**

Vallejo Public Works Director Gary Leach presented an overview of the history and current status of the Baylink Ferry service, including the terminal facilities and the Mare Island maintenance facilities. He also reviewed the status of the Vallejo Station parking garage and transit terminal projects and related funding issues.

Ms. Rannells noted that WETA has supported the City of Vallejo efforts to secure funds for the Vallejo Station project and that WETA had included the Vallejo Maintenance Facility as one of its proposed projects for FY 2010/11 Ferryboat Discretionary Fund and federal transportation reauthorization funds. She also noted that WETA included some funds for the maintenance facility in its application to CalEMA for FY 2009/10 Proposition 1B funds.

Mr. Leach concluded noting that Vallejo was working toward consolidating the Vallejo and Benicia bus systems under a Joint Powers Authority which would mean the City of Vallejo would soon be out of the transportation business and that once issues regarding the Mare Island facility were resolved that Vallejo looked forward to turning over the keys to WETA.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked what the status was of the operations contract with Blue & Gold Fleet. Mr. Leach replied that the city was working on a contract extension and jointly seeking FTA approval to continue this contract for up to an additional two years through a joint letter from the city and WETA. Ms Rannells clarified that FTA would not normally approve the operating contract, but that Vallejo had received authority from FTA to extend the current contract with Blue and Gold beyond five years (FTA's standard), so FTA approval for an additional extension was warranted. Chair Johnson asked why two years would be requested. Ms. Rannells noted that while the transition should take place within the year, WETA will need some additional time to issue an RFP and award a new service contract for its regional system. Mr. Leach added that transferring operations to another contractor would take time as well.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted a practical issue regarding the maintenance of restrooms at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal and suggested that attendants may be required in order to keep them clean and in good working order. Mr. Leach said he would look into the matter.

At this time Chair Johnson cancelled the closed session noted on the agenda as Item 10. She invited members of the public to join the Board and Staff on a tour of the Vallejo facilities as the meeting remained in session.

The tour began at 2:20 p.m. and included the site of the future Vallejo Station, the new parking garage, the Vallejo ferry terminal facilities, and the Mare Island maintenance facilities.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary

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