

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(July 11, 2019)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at Pier 1, Port of San Francisco.

1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Breckenridge, Vice Chair James Wunderman, and Director Intintoli were in attendance.

3. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHASE CENTER SPECIAL EVENT FARES

Chair Breckenridge opened the public hearing to consider comments on the proposed Chase Center special event fares at 1:31 p.m.

No comments were provided.

Chair Breckenridge closed the public hearing at 1:32 p.m.

4. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Breckenridge welcomed meeting guests and thanked staff for their work on WETA's many complex and ongoing projects, and especially for the scrambling required to pull together a solution to provide temporary ferry service to the new Chase Center scheduled to open this fall. She also acknowledged and commended attending guests from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Port of San Francisco (Port), the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for their work and partnership on the Bay Area Port Recovery Plan which, she said, Directors would learn more about later in the meeting.

5. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Directors had no reports to share.

6. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Nina Rannells shared her written report with Directors. She said that staff had a kick-off meeting earlier in the day with WETA's new state legislative representatives and that she was feeling very positive about the robust Sacramento engagement they have planned. Ms. Rannells said that WETA's two recently retired vessels, the MV *Encinal* and MV *Vallejo*, were put up for sale and that WETA had already received an offer of full asking price for both. Ms. Rannells updated Directors on the state of Regional Measure 3 (RM3) noting that there was a short timeframe for litigants to file appeal materials.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2019

- b. Authorize Release of a Request for Qualifications for Bay Breeze Replacement Vessel Construction Management Services
- c. Approve Sole Source Contract Award to Pacific Power Group, LLC for Main Propulsion Engine Overhauls

Vice Chair Wunderman seconded the motion and the consent calendar items passed unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

8. CITY OF MARTINEZ UPDATE

Chair Breckenridge introduced Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder who shared an overview of short and long-term planning and development in the City. Mayor Schroder introduced Eric Figueroa, Martinez's new City Manager and said that Martinez is the seat of Contra Costa with more than 9,000 county jobs, most of which are in its downtown core. He said that downtown Martinez is also a transit hub, with a full time Visitors' Center and a two-line Amtrak station and he emphasized that the City remains committed to mitigating congestion on Bay Area highways by making Martinez ferry service a reality.

Mayor Schroder explained that the City had embarked on several promising plans for the area including a future vision for its Marina Trust Land Use Plan, required by the State Lands Commission, for the development of 70 acres of State land that had been gifted in trust to the City by the California legislature a few years ago. Mayor Schroder said efforts are currently underway for Martinez's Marina Master Plan update for the 350 acre waterfront. He said that Martinez is also a member of the team working on a new Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative in a partnership project with the northern waterfront cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Concord, Hercules, Oakley and Pittsburgh. He said this new, seven city Initiative will bring jobs and economic development to the Contra Costa County northern waterfront.

Mayor Schroder said Martinez is working with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and the City of Antioch to launch a pilot ferry service between Antioch and Martinez that will help mitigate the increasing congestion between those cities on Highway 4. He said the City will play an integral part in the testing the new Water-Go-Round hydrogen fuel cell vessel under construction during its pilot program in 2020 which will consist of the single new ferry testing out different routes.

Mayor Schroder said Martinez spent \$800,000 to dredge the marina in 2017. He explained that the City envisions WETA as its ferry service operator down the road, once ridership warrants and funding to dredge the City's deep water pier area is secured. Mayor Schroder said the City will continue meeting with private ferry operators Tideline and PropSF in efforts to launch a Martinez pilot ferry service. He emphasized that a new Martinez ferry service will be fundamental to the success of the City's promising planning and development efforts and he thanked Directors for their continued support and partnership in helping to bring the Martinez ferry service vision to fruition.

9. SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA PORT RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

Program Manager/Analyst Lauren Gularte introduced this San Francisco Bay Area Port Recovery Plan update. She explained that while WETA is not a Port, WETA and its assets have been integrated into the Plan because WETA operates services at its facilities in numerous ports in the Bay Area and relies on those ports to be operational to provide its service and meet its emergency response mandate.

Ms. Gularte thanked and introduced meeting attendees who comprise the core planning team responsible for the Port Recovery Plan update work including USCG Chief of Contingency Planning & Force Readiness Commander David Dixon, Cal OES Ports and Harbor Emergency Services Coordinator Bob Butchart, Port of San Francisco Marine Specialist Dominic Moreno, Port of San Francisco Wharfinger Brandon Chapman, Port of Oakland Safety and Emergency Manager Desmond

DeMoss and Ted Born, Operations Planner in the FEMA Region IX Response Division, who provided Directors with an overview of the San Francisco Bay Area Port Recovery Plan which he described as an infrastructure recovery plan. Mr. Born said that work on the Plan Update was in its final stages and that the Plan includes seven Bay Area Ports and WETA.

In response to a question from Chair Breckenridge, Commander Dixon said that there was an effort currently underway to identify a solution for credentialing critical transportation and emergency management workers but that this issue was not yet resolved. It was agreed that this was a fundamental piece of emergency response management to assure WETA and contracted staff will be able to travel freely and access WETA facilities throughout the Bay Area to provide support after an emergency or disaster.

10. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO CS MARINE CONSTRUCTORS, INC. FOR THE MISSION BAY INTERIM FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT

Senior Planner/Project Manager Chad Mason presented this item to approve a contract award to CS Marine Constructors, Inc. for the Mission Bay Interim Ferry Terminal Project. He said that after the two year temporary service at Mission Bay is over, the float was expected to be used in Vallejo for a dredging project.

Vice Chair Wunderman made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

11. ADOPT FY 2019/20 SPECIAL EVENT FARES FOR NEW CHASE CENTER SERVICE

This item to adopt FY 2019/20 special event fares for new Chase Center service was presented by Transportation Planner Taylor Rutsch. Mr. Rutsch reminded Directors of their adoption of a fare policy for special events required that fares cover the entire cost to provide that service. He noted that since WETA has never provided service to the new Chase Center, it is impossible to get a precise cost to provide the service so the numbers used in this initial fare setting were based on costs to provide Alameda/Oakland service to Oracle Park for baseball games. He said the fares will be revisited next year and if costs dictate, fare changes will be suggested and brought back to Directors for their review and adoption.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous speaker asked if the temporary service will include service from Vallejo to special events, such as concerts, at the new Chase Center.

Mr. Rutsch said special events service will not be available this year from Vallejo but will be considered next year. He said the Oakland/Alameda service could include special events as well as basketball games.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous speaker asked if WETA would be providing service to the temporary facility for Giants games because Oracle Park is just a short walk away.

Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly said this has been included in discussion but for at the least the first year it will be unlikely due to numerous challenges that include planned construction of the China Basin pedestrian bridge and vessel availability. He said it was certainly not out of the question for future service.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Chair Breckenridge seconded the motion and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

12. APPROVE REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN PLAN BAY AREA 2050

Mr. Connolly presented this item to approve regionally significant projects for inclusion in Plan Bay Area 2050, the region's transportation plan produced by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). He said WETA solicited input from Bay Area counties to produce the list of projects for WETA's submission. In response to a clarifying question from Vice Chair Wunderman, Mr. Connolly said that new WETA projects can be included in the next Plan update which will begin in about two years to meet the Plan's four-year regeneration cycle.

Director Chair Breckenridge made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

13. UPDATE ON RICHMOND FERRY SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Public Information & Marketing Manager Thomas Hall presented this update on Richmond ferry service and community outreach. He said that the new service that launched just six months ago was thriving, with a recent weekday record-breaking boarding total of 953 and that it continued to grow each month. He reminded the Board that WETA and Blue & Gold Fleet staff were working to implement a summer weekend demonstration service beginning in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific Regional Director Robert Estrada asked how the Richmond passengers liked the crews on the vessels they were riding. Mr. Hall said that Richmond passengers often remark on what a terrific job the crews are doing and how much they like them.

It was noted that WETA's long term partnership with its contractor operator, Blue & Gold Fleet, was a stellar example of a public private partnership.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No additional public comments were shared.

With all business concluded the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END