

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

[July 11, 2024]

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair James Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffrey DelBono, and Director Pippin Dew were in attendance.

Chair Wunderman led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed directors, staff, and meeting guests and noted that the meeting was being conducted in person and by videoconference and was being recorded. He advised guests about offering public comment and how guests could sign up to speak throughout the meeting.

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wunderman said that he is continuing to see long lines with good passenger counts. He reported that several important people would be coming together tomorrow to celebrate the culmination of a tremendous amount of work for the christening of the *Sea Change*, the first hydrogen vessel for passengers in the world. He stated that he was proud of WETA and of Bay Area Council Vice President of Public Policy for Transportation for helping to raise a lot of private money to provide a free ride to the public.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Moyer recalled the work on hydrogen ferry vessels by the Port of San Francisco over a decade ago. She commended WETA and Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) for their courage and commitment in sponsoring the vessel with all the suspicions and concerns surrounding it. She said that she looked forward to the agenda and the discussions.

Director Alba said that she was excited about the pilot service between Redwood City and the Giants games starting soon and was looking forward to being on one of the ferries and sharing the experience with other riders from Silicon Valley.

Director Dew said as Chair of the Norcal President's Alliance for the Association of Realtors, she shared news about the Redwood City Ballpark Service with the San Mateo Association President who said that he would be promoting the service to his clients. She noted that she appreciated SF Bay Ferry engaging the community at the Vallejo Juneteenth Festival.

The Directors expressed their excitement about the christening of the *Sea Change*.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Seamus Murphy stated that this was an exciting time culminating with the christening of the *Sea Change* and the start of the Oakland Alameda Water Shuttle and Redwood City Ballpark Ferry Service Pilot Projects.

Before offering his reports, Mr. Murphy thanked the Board for approving the agency's reorganization and staff capacity expansion. He announced that Planning and Development Manager Michael Gougherty and Senior Planner/Project Manager Chad Mason had been promoted to Director of Planning and Capital Planning Manager, respectively. He added that Operations and Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners had been promoted to Director of Project Delivery and Engineering and that Engineering and Maintenance Administrator Jeffery Powell and Marine Project Manager Jan Rybka had both been promoted to Senior Project Managers. He said that these changes were consistent with the reorganization plan allowing more staff capacity within these groups.

Following the changes in staffing, Mr. Murphy introduced Gary Griggs, SF Bay Ferry's first Chief Capital Program Officer, noting that Mr. Griggs served in the same role most recently at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Mr. Murphy invited Mr. Griggs to say a few words to the Board.

Mr. Griggs provided some background on his career and project experience and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be a part of the SF Bay Ferry team.

Mr. Murphy introduced Transportation Intern Lensaa Temesgen stating that she had interned at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and as a Policy Associate at Bay Area Council.

Mr. Murphy stated that the Regional Revenue Measure that had received the support of the Board had been put on pause. He said that MTC created two new committees – The Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee and the Transportation Revenue Measure Executive Group - to refocus on the issues and repackage the measure that would gain broad support from Bay Area stakeholders and policymakers to move the measure forward successfully. He acknowledged Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte for her work in creating a strong coalition of support from Bay Area advocates.

Chair Wunderman added some comments about the Regional Revenue Measure and supported pausing the measure. He remarked that the concern for agencies was the fiscal cliff; however, he believed that the public were more interested in service quality adding that it would be hard to get the support of the public to pay more money for the same thing.

Director Alba said that Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) had released its Role in the Region report and the implications of the fiscal cliff and the devastating impacts on the entire region.

Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan shared his presentation on the Crew of the Year Program. He said that the program aims to highlight and recognize exemplary service by Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) customer-facing staff on SF Bay Ferry services and includes captains, deckhands, guest assistance representatives, passenger service center staff, and other staff who directly interact with passengers. He explained that staff are nominated by passengers and fellow peers using an online form and winners are selected by a committee made up of SF Bay Ferry and Blue & Gold based on endorsements shared in the nominations.

Mr. Regan announced the 2024 SF Bay Ferry Crew of the Year:

- Deckhand Luke Caven
- Captain Gloria Freeman
- Deckhand Ron Garlets

Mr. Regan stated that SF Bay Ferry was proud of all crew members having received over 130 nominations and congratulated the recipients and all crew members for their efforts in representing SF Bay Ferry.

Mr. Regan noted that the recipients were surprised, most especially, Mr. Garlets. He added that their pictures would be on display onboard the vessels and posted on social media.

Mr. Murphy commented that Assembly Bill (AB) 2061, exempting the state portion of the sales and use tax on the purchase of zero-emission ferries by public transit agencies, was making its way to the Governor's desk. He noted that the ferries would not be exempt from local sales taxes.

Chair Wunderman requested clarification on the bridge toll revenue draw down. Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath explained that financials were reported through May and did not include the entire fiscal year. She anticipated that SF Bay Ferry would close the year under budget.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and invited Project Development and Controls Joe Ramey and Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan to report on the operations and ridership. Mr. Ramey reported that the decline in on-time performance appeared to correlate with higher ridership and that discussions with Blue & Gold were initiated to understand the underlying causes and to develop solutions to improve on-time performance. He noted that canceled trips represented 0.7 percent of total trips from January through June. Mr. Chan stated that fiscal year (FY) 2024 ridership was approximately 74 percent of 2019 and that SF Bay Ferry continues to outperform other regional operators in terms of regional ridership. He added that SF Bay Ferry was projecting a 7 percent growth for FY 2025.

Mr. Murphy concluded his report and offered to answer questions.

Mr. Murphy clarified that SF Bay Ferry would not be affected by changes made to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) as SF Bay Ferry was not a beneficiary of the TIRCP funds in response to Chair Wunderman.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2024
- b. Ratify Contract Award to Bay Ship and Yacht Co. for MV *Mare Island* Emergency Dry Dock and Repair Work
- c. Approve Amendment No. 5 to Agreement #21-019 with CivicMakers, LLC
- d. Adopt a Resolution Recognizing the 2024 San Francisco Bay Ferry Crew of the Year

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Director Dew seconded the motion, and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Chair Wunderman noted that the Consent Calendar recognized the 2024 Crew of the Year and congratulated all crew members. He thought that it would be a nice idea to get all the crew members in one place at one time to honor all crew.

7. ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE VALLEJO FERRY TERMINAL RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

Capital Planning Manager Chad Mason introduced two related items recommending adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Reconfiguration Project and approving the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Reconfiguration Project.

Mr. Mason provided a general update of the project noting that the goal of the project was to reconfigure the Vallejo Ferry Terminal in a manner to reduce or avoid the need for dredging, thereby minimizing disruption to passengers and improving efficiency and overall operational safety of the ferry landings. He added that dredging is required every two years at a current cost of \$2 to 3 million with the next dredging scheduled for 2025.

Mr. Mason said that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) proposed three configuration options with one utilizing the existing access point. SF Bay Ferry solicited comments on the environmental review process as well as getting input on the preferred configuration option. Though scoping was not necessary under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the scoping process helped to identify the proposed project that was carried forward in the CEQA document that utilizes the existing access point. He said that the next steps included coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) clearance and initiating the environmental resource agency permitting process with construction anticipated in 2026.

Mr. Mason introduced Senior Transportation Planner Arthi Krubanandh to provide an overview of the CEQA process and the environmental analysis of the project. Ms. Krubanandh noted that SF Bay Ferry notified and addressed comments from the tribal groups about the project in accordance with AB 52.

Director Dew shared a photo of a ferry appearing immobilized at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal showing the importance of prioritizing the project.

Mr. Mason said that the consultation with tribal groups was required by AB 52 which provide a more formal structure for California tribes to provide meaningful input to protect the cultural heritage of tribes during the CEQA process in response to Chair Wunderman.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-33 approving this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Inlandboatmen's Union Regional Director Marina Secchitano voiced her support for the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Reconfiguration Project with the configuration utilizing the current access point.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

8. APPROVE THE VALLEJO FERRY TERMINAL RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-34 approving this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City of Vallejo Assistant to the City Manager Natalie Peterson voiced her support for the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Reconfiguration Project.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

9. NAME DORADO CLASS VESSELS THREE AND FOUR

Digital Communications Specialist Alexis Matsui presented this item recommending naming the third vessel "Karl" and selecting and approving either "Bay Gull" or "Chowder" for the name of the fourth vessel in the *Dorado* class.

Ms. Matsui explained the solicitation and selection process based on the Vessel Naming Policy approved by the Board in December 2023 and that the name "Karl" had received 1,200 votes. She

noted that the name “Karl” was submitted by a tenth grader named Sean who said that “Karl, the ferry would be at home cruising through the fog”. She said that the next two finalists were “Bay Gull” and “Chowder”, submitted by first grader Jules because “it’s fun” and by sixth grader Brett because “this is a classic San Francisco dish that we are very much known for”, respectively. She said that the winners would receive a one-year pass on SF Bay Ferry for themselves and their families.

Ms. Matsui explained that “Karl” was the name of San Francisco’s fog in response to Chair Wunderman.

The Directors thanked Ms. Matsui for going through the process and thought that the 12 nominees were creative. Of the two names offered, Vice Chair Moyer said that “Bay Gull” sounded like bagel and pictured a soggy piece of bread.

Director Alba said that she was open to “Karla” in recognition of following the tradition of referring to ships in the female gender. Ms. Matsui noted Director Alba’s point but stated that she had not heard a gender associated with “Karl” the fog.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-35 approving the name “Karl” for vessel three.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Ms. Matsui confirmed that the list of names had been vetted to have the meanings expected.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the naming for vessel three passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Director DelBono made a motion to adopt “Chowder” as the name for vessel four.

Vice Chair Moyer asked if another name from the list could be picked.

Mr. Murphy replied that to be consistent with the policy, staff had vetted the list of names and made recommendations but that the Board was free to select from the list of names or choose a different name if it was consistent with the policy.

Chair Wunderman suggested naming vessel four “Nina”, after the previous WETA Executive Director Nina Rannells for her leadership in negotiating the vessel building contract. He recognized that this was not consistent with the vessel naming policy but not inappropriate to name the vessel after Ms. Rannells for her work and efforts on the *Dorado* class of vessels and asked if any of the Directors wanted to make a motion.

Director DelBono said that he did not feel comfortable veering away from the process agreed upon by the Board and felt that the Board owed it to the students to follow through with the process.

Chair Wunderman noted that a motion had been received for “Chowder” but had not received a second and asked for further discussion. Vice Chair Moyer said that she liked the lyrical sound of “Zalophus”, the scientific name of the California sea lion.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt “Zalophus” as the name for vessel four.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Vice Chair Moyer seconded the motion, and the naming for vessel four passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Chair Wunderman thanked all the kids for their creativity and excitement about being a part of the naming process.

10. OAKLAND ALAMEDA WATER SHUTTLE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Director of Planning Michael Gougherty presented this information item on the Oakland Alameda Water Shuttle Pilot Project update.

Mr. Gougherty said that the project was a partnership between San Francisco Bay Ferry, City of Alameda, Alameda Transportation Management Association, CIM (Jack London Square Property Manager), and the Port of Oakland. He invited Mr. Chan to share his presentation and to review some of the goals and objectives of the service that would be used in assessing the service in the future.

Mr. Chan reminded the Board that the shuttle was a two-year limited term project offering service between Alameda Landing and Oakland Jack London Square. He outlined the new evaluation process and the performance metrics for the pilot projects that would be used to inform the final report and noted that the goals, objectives, and evaluation metrics were developed in partnership with the City of Alameda staff and the WETA Board pilots subcommittee.

Mr. Chan shared information on the data analysis and reporting and the public outreach and marketing plan and said that SF Bay Ferry had committed \$50,000 of in-kind marketing support and staff time to the project.

Chair Wunderman commented that it was interesting to see that the service was a product from a 2009 study.

Vice Chair Moyer said that the process was comprehensive and that she appreciated the thought that went into evaluating the service and the template that was created to evaluate other pilots.

Mr. Gougherty said that the City of Alameda was looking to do a soft launch at the start of the service followed by a ribbon-cutting event around September.

Mr. Gougherty explained that the gaps in the service schedule were driven by crew break times and budget constraints limiting crew shifts in response to Director Alba.

Director Alba said the 30-minute frequency was a concern for her but a good start and said that the frequency should be considered when the service was being evaluated.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none. He thanked Mr. Chan for his presentation.

11. TREASURE ISLAND FERRY STUDY

Mr. Gougherty presented this informational item on the Treasure Island Ferry study. He said that the project was included in the 2050 Service Vision Expansion Policy and the centerpiece of Phase 1 of the Rapid Electric Emission-Free (REEF) Ferry Program. He said that the presentation was an update on the work being done in partnership with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), acting as the Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency (TIMMA).

Mr. Gougherty introduced SFCTA Assistant Deputy Director of Planning Suany Chough to share her presentation on the Treasure Island Ferry Service Planning Update that was given at the SFCTA Board last month. She said that SFCTA was happy to support SF Bay Ferry's applications to various federal and state programs to secure over \$127 million.

Chair Wunderman thanked Ms. Chough for her report and asked for the status of the toll assumption. Ms. Chough stated that SFCTA was shaping the affordability policy since there were concerns about equity and impact on the low-income community on the island. She added that she did not anticipate the toll infrastructure being in place for a couple of years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Treasure Island Development Group (TIDG) Senior Development Manager Andy Wang expressed his support for the TIMMA recommendations. He said that TIDG, through a partnership with Prop SF has been privately operating interim ferry service available to the public from Treasure Island since 2022.

Prop SF Chief Operating Officer Alex Kryska offered to provide information about the service and hoped to be a part of it moving forward.

Seamless Bay Area Chance Boreczky referred to the letter sent and spoke in support of the study.

Chair Wunderman said that he was working on the Treasure Island project when he was working under Mayor Dianne Feinstein and then under Mayor Frank Jordan. He said that the Treasure Island project was an important project and thanked Prop SF for running the service.

Vice Chair Moyer added that the project is critical to WETA's responsibilities for emergency response and was happy that Prop SF could assist to fulfill those responsibilities.

Mr. Murphy said that he was waiting for the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide earmark funding to electrify the Treasure Island Ferry Terminal.

12. DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Ms. Krubanandh introduced this informational item on the draft sustainability policy which she stated was in response to the stakeholder input received during the business plan outreach focusing on environmental stewardship. She offered the proposed draft policy asking for the Board's feedback. She said that comments would be incorporated with a final version being brought back for adoption next month.

Ms. Krubanandh was joined by Government and Regulatory Affairs Specialist Terence Candell and shared their presentation on the background, the sustainability policy categories, the goals and objectives of each category, next steps, and the outreach plan.

Mr. Candell presented the six key focus areas of the Social Equity and Environmental Justice category in order to deliver a cost-effective and safe service and prioritize system expansion to benefit disadvantaged communities, promote workforce diversity through fair recruitment and career advancement, engage in a program supporting equitable employment, and work in partnership with the Working Waterfront Coalition to achieve the goal of increasing maritime labor by recruiting and training underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Chair Wunderman said that SF Bay Ferry is doing a great deal to become a model of sustainability.

Director Dew reported that the Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) had hosted an informational session at the Vallejo Employment Development Department (EDD).

Director DeBono commented that applicants had to be at least 18 years of age to participate in the WWC program.

Vice Chair Moyer suggested charting success on an annual basis at a minimum.

Chair Wunderman thanked Ms. Krubanandh and Mr. Candell for their presentation.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Port of Redwood City Port Commission Chairperson Lorianna Kastrop expressed her thanks and excitement about the Redwood City to Giants game ferry service and inquired about ticketing availability details.

Mr. Regan said that tickets for the Redwood City Ballpark Ferry Pilot Service would be available within the next week and noted that those signing up for notifications on the SF Bay Ferry website would be the first to know when tickets would be on sale.

Director Alba thanked Ms. Kastrop for including the link directly to the Giants sign up page on the Port of Redwood City website and in the Port Newsletter.

Mr. Murphy stated that he had neglected to note that Operations Analyst Joe Ramey, who was participating remotely was selected to fill the role of Project Development and Controls as part of the reorganization previously discussed.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END