

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

[February 13, 2025]

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the 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 1:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair James Wunderman, Director Jessica Alba, 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 commented that he has noticed an increase in ridership on his daily ferry rides from Oakland.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Director Dew reported that she had attended the Passenger Vessel Association Annual Convention at MariTrends in Savannah, GA where she rode the Artemis vessel and learned about systems, integration, and fire suppression challenges in the industry.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Seamus Murphy stated that the Federal Legislative Update had been moved to the top of the staff reports for this meeting. He noted the uncertainty and impacts of the Trump Administration's actions and its effects on federal grants authorized by Congress.

Mr. Murphy introduced SF Bay Ferry Federal Legislative Representative Ray Bucheger of Accelerate Strategies to provide an update. Mr. Bucheger gave a high-level overview of actions by the Trump Administration and Congressional actions.

Mr. Murphy provided a summary of SF Bay Ferry's grants.

Chair Wunderman thanked Mr. Bucheger for his report and commented that local supporters involved with President Trump's campaign could be influential.

Mr. Murphy asked Director of Planning Michael Gougherty to provide an update on the Mission Bay Ferry Landing. Mr. Gougherty reminded the Board that the US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Ports Program, a coordinated grant with the Port of San Francisco, provided the final piece of funding necessary to bring the original project concept forward and the electrification of the terminal.

Mr. Gougherty stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was being drafted defining roles and responsibilities as the path forward to delivering the Mission Bay project by 2028. He said that the exact terms of the MOU would be presented to the Board next month.

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath provided a breakdown of funding and sponsors for the \$75.8 million Mission Bay project.

Mr. Murphy invited Emergency Response and Safety Analyst Cameron Bochman to discuss SF Bay Ferry's emergency response training program. Mr. Bochman shared his presentation and provided an overview of the training program which included bimonthly training sessions, quarterly communication tests, a new hire onboarding program, and an annual functional exercise aimed at improving staff preparedness and familiarity with procedures and communications systems. He added that a Request for Proposal for Consultant Support for Emergency Response Planning had recently been released.

The Directors emphasized the importance of the training and welcomed the opportunity to participate.

Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan indicated that the ridership report indicated a strong performance in January. Chair Wunderman suggested separately charting weekday commute time year over year and teaming up with the Mayor's Office to help support City events with special ferry accommodations.

Mr. Murphy provided written reports and offered to answer questions before inviting Chief Capital Program Officer Gary Griggs to present the second quarterly review of the FY 2024/25 capital program. Mr. Griggs shared his presentation highlighting accomplishments, the schedule and cost performance, risk management, and look ahead summary.

The Directors thanked staff for their in-depth reports and updates and suggested that a summary highlighting important information or concerns about the financial statements would be helpful.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Dew made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2025

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

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

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

7. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO BALLYHOO MEDIA FOR ADVERTISING SERVICES

Director of Operations and Customer Experience Thomas Hall presented this item recommending authorizing the Executive Director to award a contract to Ballyhoo Media for advertising services and authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement for a 5-year base term and one 5-year option term and take any other related actions to support this work.

Director Alba commented that SF Bay Ferry consider eliminating fossil fuel-related advertising as some European transit agencies have.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04 approving this item.

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

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

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

8. MAINTENANCE AUDIT REVIEW UPDATE

Senior Project Manager Jeffery Powell presented this informational item and shared his presentation on the maintenance audit that was conducted by Elliott Bay Design Group in 2024.

Mr. Powell explained the audit process, the categories of maintenance, and highlighted a few of the recommendations.

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

9. BERKELEY PIER/FERRY PROJECT UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2025

Capital Planning Manager Chad Mason introduced this informational item stating that the project is advancing under the framework established by two previously adopted MOUs that were adopted in 2019 and 2024.

Mr. Mason introduced City of Berkeley staff, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Scott Ferris, Capital Improvement Program Manager Liza McNulty, and Senior Management Analyst Roger Miller along with Senior Planner Dhawal Kataria of Kittelson & Associates, a transportation consultant assisting the City of Berkeley.

Mr. Ferris noted that the City of Berkeley has been jointly working on this project with SF Bay Ferry since 2018 and was happy with the progress. He turned the presentation over to Ms. McNulty who shared her presentation about the project.

Chair Wunderman thanked Ms. McNulty for her presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Save the Berkeley Pier Founder Jim McGrath and City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission Member Claudia Kawczynska expressed their concerns about impacts on recreational use.

Berkeley resident Isabel spoke in support of the project.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

- a. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code 54956.8)
Property: 375 Beale Street
Agency negotiator(s): Seamus Murphy and Erin McGrath,
San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority
Negotiating Parties for the Bay Area Headquarters Authority:
John Walsh and Brandon Cane, Managing Directors Cushman & Wakefield
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

Chair Wunderman recessed the meeting at 2:58 p.m., and the Directors met in closed session.

12. REPORT OF ACTIVITY IN CLOSED SESSION

Upon returning to open session at 3:15 p.m., Chair Wunderman reported that no action was taken.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END