

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

***[October 10, 2024]***

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session the Richmond City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond 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, 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 the Richmond Ferry Service has turned out to be a tremendous addition to the SF Bay Ferry service and that he was happy to be holding the meeting in Richmond. He introduced City of Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez who thanked WETA for allowing Richmond to host the meeting. Mayor Martinez shared his insights on waterfront redevelopment.

Chair Wunderman reported that he was invited by the U.S. Navy to participate on a panel to talk about redeveloping the waterfront with the purpose of rebuilding the ship repair and shipbuilding capacity. He said that there is a movement in America to rebuild the shipbuilding capacity that was being led by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro.

Chair Wunderman said that he was on the panel to talk about electric ferries and the new industry arising from SF Bay Ferry's commitment to the changing nature of how ships are powered in the future. He stated that Congressman John Garamendi was there and is a huge proponent of the Jones Act and supportive of local shipbuilding.

Mayor Martinez added that one of his main objectives was to revitalize the Port of Richmond. He said that he was looking for a way to move the MS *Red Oak Victory* next to the Rosie the Riveter Museum to free up one of the berths at the Port of Richmond for shipbuilding.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Moyer emphasized the importance and mission of Fleet Week which changed under the leadership of Retired Marine Corps Major General Mike Myatt. Major General Myatt revived Fleet Week by showcasing the capabilities of the military relating to emergency response.

Vice Chair Moyer reported that she and Executive Director Seamus Murphy had attended an event celebrating the tenth anniversary of the James R. Herman Cruise Terminal at Pier 27 noting that the facility brings shoreside power to cruise ships and that the same can be brought to ferries. She reminded everyone about the importance of public facilities and multiple uses which included emergency response and family reunification.

Director Alba remarked that she had the opportunity to ride on the last Redwood City Ballpark Ferry Service ferry from Redwood City to Chase Center serving Oracle Park and hoped to continue that pilot.

Director DelBono said that he worked in Richmond out on an ambulance and liked being back. He encouraged people to come to San Francisco for Fleet Week and the Italian Heritage Parade.

Director Dew shared that she attended the open house for the Working Waterfront Coalition and was excited to hear about the continued conversations and opportunities on increasing shipbuilding and supporting workforce efforts.

The Directors thanked Mayor Martinez and Richmond residents for hosting SF Bay Ferry.

## **5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Mr. Murphy congratulated Director Alba for being reelected as Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Association for Commuter Transportation, Chair Wunderman for being nominated for 2024 San Franciscan of the year by the *San Francisco Examiner*, and Vice Chair Moyer as the former Port of San Francisco Director for her leadership in the building of the James R. Herman Cruise Terminal.

Mr. Murphy thanked the Board for approving WETA's reorganization plan and introduced several new WETA staff including Transportation Planner Dorry Funaki, Maintenance Administrator Salomon Lainez, Emergency Response and Safety Analyst Cameron Bochman, and Information Technology Analyst Jonathan Elkin.

Mr. Murphy said that he was very proud of the Richmond Ferry Service and congratulated Contra Costa County and the residents of Richmond for supporting Measure J. He said that Measure J, which includes operating funds for the Richmond Ferry Service, is a huge reason the service exists and uses the service as a model for others who are interested in ferry service expansion.

Mr. Murphy introduced Director of Operations & Customer Experience Thomas Hall to present some history about the Richmond Ferry Service, opportunities, ridership since 2019, and marketing efforts. Mr. Hall stated that SF Bay Ferry provides extra service for events close to the Ferry Building such as Fleet Week, its biggest weekend of the year, and Pride Weekend. He mentioned that SF Bay Ferry would be running the Richmond Scenic Route to draw positive attention to the route.

Mr. Hall shared minor schedule changes to improve service efficiency effective November 4 and thanked Director of Planning Michael Gougherty, Senior Transportation Planner Arthi Krubanandh, and Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) Operations Manager Aden Anderson for their work on these efforts. He added that SF Bay Ferry would be trying to make some additional tweaks to the schedule.

Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Hall, Public Information & Marketing Manager Alexis Matsui, and Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan for a great job planning SF Bay Ferry's annual Ferry Rider Appreciation Day. He said that SF Bay Ferry was the only regional operator in the region to offer free fares to celebrate California Clean Air Day.

Mr. Murphy reported that Assembly Bill (AB) 2061 (Wilson), a bill that would have provided a state sales and use tax exemption for zero-emission ferries purchased by public transit agencies, was vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom who cited concerns about the bill's impact to the state's General Fund.

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 on-time performance and service reliability continues to remain high through September 2024, and Mr. Chan said that ridership was about 80 percent compared to the same months in 2019 and higher than what was projected in the budget.

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

Mr. Hall said that he would follow up on any actionable or improvement feedback received from the California Clean Air Day event. Vice Chair Moyer thought that it was tremendous and thanked the staff and Next Steps Marketing for their efforts.

Chair Wunderman said that along with Bay Area Co-Chair of California Clean Air Day Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia, they had sent letters to transit agencies suggesting that they offer free fares on California Clean Air Day. He said that a few smaller systems participated but that SF Bay Ferry was the only regional one.

Director Dew said that she had heard that Caltrain was offering a promotional youth fare and asked SF Bay Ferry to consider a promotional youth fare to expose kids to ferry transit and encourage transit as a habit.

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

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Alba made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2024
- b. Approve Changes to Diversity Program for Contracts and Submittal of the Revised Program to the U.S. Department of Transportation
- c. Ratify Contract Award to Bay Ship and Yacht Co. for MV *Cetus* and MV *Hydrus* Repair and Drydock

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

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

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

## **7. AUTHORIZE SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH RIM ARCHITECTS, LLP FOR SERVICES RELATED TO OFFICE RECONFIGURATION PROJECTS**

Mr. Ramey presented this item authorizing the Executive Director to execute a second amendment to SF Bay Ferry's Agreement with RIM Architects, LLP (RIM) to extend the term of the Agreement and increase the not-to-exceed amount to \$197,000 to allow RIM to continue providing services related to the North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility (NBOMF) and Pier 9 office planning projects.

Director DelBono made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-41 approving this item.

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

Vice Chair Moyer seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

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

## **8. ADOPT SF BAY FERRY REGIONAL MEASURE 3 FIVE-YEAR OPERATING PLAN FY2025-2029**

Mr. Gougherty introduced this item and shared his presentation adopting the *SF Bay Ferry Regional Measure 3 Five-Year Operating Plan FY2025-2029* in compliance with Regional Measure (RM) 3 operating assistance funding requirements.

Chair Wunderman commented that the 3 percent cost escalation seemed a little modest. Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath stated that 3 percent was not super conservative and perfectly reasonable based upon long term trends going back and because much of the inflation was absorbed into the FY2024/25 budget.

Chair Wunderman expressed concerns about the vulnerability of the reserve funds. Mr. Murphy stated that the reserves were protected by RM 3 language.

Director DelBono commented about keeping reserves up and the South San Francisco Ferry Service.

Director Alba said that SF Bay Ferry's decarbonization journey and cost savings from electrifying the fleet should be celebrated.

Mr. Gougherty invited Mr. Chan to present the next part of the presentation on RM 3 performance measures. The performance measures proposed were a farebox recovery metric, a customer experience metric, and a regional coordination metric.

Mr. Chan explained that the farebox recovery metric could be satisfied either by not exceeding comparable express farebox recovery requirements for other regional operators or showing a demonstrated growth year over year in farebox recovery that could be applicable to newer services.

The customer experience metric proposed an on-time performance of at least 85 percent, a cancellation rate not exceeding 5 percent, and a customer satisfaction rate of at least 85 percent measured by the SF Bay Ferry annual survey.

Mr. Chan expanded upon the regional coordination metric stating that this metric would be satisfied by maintaining fares with comparable transit and parallel corridors and aligning and adjusting service plans and schedules to meet regional initiatives and regional coordination efforts among Bay Area transit operators.

Mr. Gougherty clarified that RM 3 included language requiring adopting performance measures to receive funding. He said that the SF Bay Ferry was taking the initiative but would coordinate with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to establish the performance measures. He added that unlike RM 2's performance measure, which focused solely on farebox recovery, RM 3's performance measure is aimed at designing a ferry service that promotes equity and encourages diversity like the communities that SF Bay Ferry serves.

WETA Attorney Steven Miller of Hanson Bridgett LLP explained that, if SF Bay Ferry had a service or a project that did not meet the performance measures, SF Bay Ferry had a right to extend the time period to meet the performance measures without MTC consultation and with MTC consultation if an additional extension of time was needed. He said that if MTC chose not to fund a program, funds would go into a reserve account for SF Bay Ferry. He clarified that the expenditure plan identifies specific projects for which SF Bay Ferry is the project sponsor but that the operating bucket of money is more flexible without specific designations.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-42 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, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**9. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO MARITIME CONSULTING PARTNERS (MCP) FOR CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$285,000 TO ASSIST WITH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SF BAY FERRY'S NEXT FERRY OPERATING AGREEMENT**

Mr. Ramey presented this item approving Contract Award to Maritime Consulting Partners (MCP) for consulting services in the not-to-exceed Amount of \$285,000 to support SF Bay Ferry's development of

a new ferry operating contract set to begin in 2027 and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement and take any other related actions to support this work.

Mr. Ramey explained the scoring and weighting system used to evaluate the proposals.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-43 approving this item.

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

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

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

**10. APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GREEN MARINE PROGRAM**

Ms. Krubanandh led this item approving participation in the Green Marine Program. She introduced Green Marine Program Manager Brittney Blokker who shared her presentation giving an overview on the program, membership types, and certification process. Ms. Blokker said the goal was to reduce the environmental footprint of maritime operations by exceeding regulatory requirements and promoting a culture of continual improvement.

Ms. Blokker said that the Port of Oakland and the Port of Redwood City were certified members.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-44 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, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**11. RICHMOND FREE FERRY FRIDAY PROMOTION**

Mr. Hall presented this informational item on the Richmond Free Ferry Friday Promotion beginning Friday, November 1 and continuing through the end of the year. He said that Contra Costa Transportation Authority would be reimbursing SF Bay Ferry for lost revenue based on the free fares.

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

**12. 2024 SF BAY FERRY ONBOARD PASSENGER SURVEY RESULTS**

Mr. Hall introduced this informational item on the 2024 SF Bay Ferry onboard passenger survey results. Corey, Canapary & Galanis Executive Vice President Jon Canapary spoke about how the survey was conducted and scheduled surveyors to board very specific ferries to cover different time periods. He said that the survey was provided in English, Chinese, and Spanish and could be completed on board or online if more time was needed.

Mr. Hall shared his presentation on the survey results and key takeaways.

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

**13. DRAFT ACCESS POLICY**

Mr. Chan presented this informational item and shared his presentation on the draft access policy. He said that he was seeking feedback and comments on the updates to the proposed SF Bay Ferry Terminal Access Policy.

Mr. Chan said that the purpose of the policy was to incentivize and secure funding commitments from local jurisdictions, establish agency-wide goals, priorities, and standards, and lay the groundwork for site-specific access with the goals aspiring to support ridership growth, fiscal responsibility, equity, environmental sustainability, local partnerships, and regional priorities.

The Directors provided comments on the draft access policy for staff consideration.

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

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**15. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION**

- a. Public Employee Performance Evaluation; Conference with Labor Negotiator  
Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6  
Title: Executive Director  
Agency Designated Representative: Jim Wunderman

Chair Wunderman recessed the meeting at 3:54 p.m., and the Directors met in closed session.

**16. REPORT OF ACTIVITY IN CLOSED SESSION**

Upon returning to open session at 4:06 p.m., Chair Wunderman reported that no action had been taken.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m. in memory of former Mayor of San Rafael and member of the Water Transportation Authority Albert Boro.

- Board Secretary

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