

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

[May 8, 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 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair James Wunderman, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffery 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 commented on Senate Bill 63, the Connect Bay Area Act, which aims to strengthen and stabilize public transportation in the Bay Area. He stated that staff would be meeting with US Representative Rick Larsen from Washington State who is the ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Chair Wunderman said that he participated in a San Francisco Peninsula advisory group discussing ways to improve transportation in San Mateo County.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Director Alba reported that she had the pleasure of welcoming the MV *Karl* along with California Air Resources Board (CARB) Chair Liane Randolph and US Representative John Garamendi staff at the concluding Climate Week. She said that the tier 4 engine with the diesel particulate filter represents the most advanced diesel emissions technology currently available for marine vessels adding that it provides a 50 percent reduction in smog producing emissions and 80 percent reduction of particulate matter.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Seamus Murphy thanked the team for organizing the christening of the MV *Karl*.

Mr. Murphy said that he had received emails from San Mateo County officials who were anxious to talk about concepts for ferry expansion. He invited Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte to talk about the Public Ferry Coalition (PFC) and the PFC website.

Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan shared encouraging news on the ridership report.

Mr. Murphy provided written reports and offered to answer questions.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025
- b. Authorize Purchase of Insurance Policies for Fiscal Year 2025/26
- c. Authorize the Filing of an Application with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for \$25,300,000 in Regional Measure 3 Capital Funds
- d. Authorize Submission of an Allocation Request to the California Department of Transportation for FY 2024/25 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Grant Funds

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

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

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

7. ALAMEDA FERRY TERMINALS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Alameda for the Alameda Ferry Terminals.

Mr. Murphy said the agreement would address the traffic/transportation improvement funds (TIF) and security service levels at the Alameda Ferry Terminals in addition to the implementation of parking fees.

The Directors commented on the fee structure and demand pricing.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-13 approving this item.

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

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

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

8. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. FOR INSURANCE BROKERAGE AND RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath presented this item recommending approving contract award to Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. (Alliant) for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services.

Ms. McGrath stated that SF Bay Ferry had discussions during the interview process to prepare for the future of electrification and that Alliant was ready for the challenge and also represents Washington State Ferries.

Alliant Senior Vice President Seth Cole thanked SF Bay Ferry for its support and appreciated the partnership.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-14 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, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: Moyer.

9. AWARD ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

Senior Project Manager Jeffery Powell presented this item recommending the following:

1. Approve contract awards to multiple firms to establish a “bench” of on-call consultants to support the capital program, subject to the Executive Director’s successful negotiation of terms and conditions with the selected firms; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the selected firms, and subsequently to authorize task orders for specific scope(s) of work, so long as the task orders are within the Board-authorized budget.

Mr. Powell said that SF Bay Ferry issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to establish a “bench” of qualified consultant firms in each of the following six categories: Planning, Permitting, and Environmental; Marine Vessel Engineering; Marine Facilities Engineering; Landside Facilities Engineering; Marine Vessel Construction Management; and Facilities Construction Management.

Director Alba inquired about the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-15 approving this item.

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

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

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

10. SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE STUDY

Director of Operations and Customer Experience Thomas Hall presented this informational item on the South San Francisco Service Study.

Mr. Hall said that the proposed South San Francisco Service Study seeks to identify a preferred service and funding plan to ensure the financial feasibility of water transit serving South San Francisco, increase service productivity, and establish a sustainable runway of operating funds. He said that the study would be through a collaborative process involving identified Working Group partners and public outreach.

The Directors inquired about the effects of working remotely and private ferry and bus service, and options for the future of the service, including private subsidies and smaller boats.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the Public and former South San Francisco Ferry Rider Isabel shared her experiences about the service.

Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific (IBU) National President Robert Estrada asked if SF Bay Ferry had received any help or approached Genentech and the City of South San Francisco for financial assistance.

Mr. Murphy replied that the employers at Oyster Point value the service and said that staff are having continued conversations with Oyster Point employers analyzing possible private investments to make the service financially sustainable. He said that San Mateo County has programs to provide operating assistance for new regional transit. He stated that he thought that

the outcome would be through a combination of different strategies including employer contributions.

Chair Wunderman offered to reach out to Bay Area Council member employers through the Water Transit Committee.

11. SF BAY FERRY LONG-TERM FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Mr. Murphy presented this informational item on the SF Bay Ferry long-term financial outlook and shared his presentation.

Mr. Murphy stated that the anticipated increase to the fiscal year (FY) 2025/26 budget was largely due to crew labor, fleet expansion, and fuel and provided various assessments for a fiscal cliff and near and long-term strategies to minimize the impact.

Chair Wunderman suggested approaching waterfront developers to provide ferry service as part of their project.

Director DelBono suggested merging efforts with the other ferry system on the bay to enhance and provide a better service as a way to gain more support and bring in more revenue.

Director Dew commented that public transportation dollars are going to a city entity to lease unused space that could be used for public transit.

The Directors were in support of the regional measure.

12. REVIEW PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 BUDGET AND SALARY SCHEDULE

Ms. McGrath presented this informational item on reviewing the proposed FY 2025/26 budget and salary schedule and shared her presentation.

The Directors thanked Ms. McGrath for her report and the presentation.

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

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Member of the Public Isabel suggested service between non-San Francisco terminals.

14. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

- a. Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: Executive Director

Chair Wunderman recessed the meeting at 3:03 p.m., and the Directors met in closed session.

Upon returning to open session at 3:35 p.m., Chair Wunderman reported that no action was taken.

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

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END