

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

*[August 14, 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 1:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair James Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Michael Henneberry, 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 the return to office is increasing in San Francisco.

Before introducing and welcoming Director Henneberry of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 853, Chair Wunderman reflected on the years of service of Director Henneberry's predecessor, Director Jeffrey DelBono. Chair Wunderman commended Director DelBono for fostering a positive relationship with labor unions and addressing labor-related issues, and for advocating for fairness and equity by supporting programs and fares that would benefit riders at all income levels.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Director Henneberry introduced himself and shared an anecdote about the ferry. He said he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Vice Chair Moyer thanked everyone for a tremendous year and praised the diversification of services and upcoming fleet expansions. She thanked everyone for their efforts and support.

Director Dew reported that she and Executive Director Seamus Murphy gave a presentation to the Solano Transportation Authority sharing the history and status of the ferry service and raising awareness to secure local funding. She thanked staff for creating a presentation that she gave to the Vallejo Senior Roundtable on short notice.

Chair Wunderman advised Director Henneberry that he was a member of the pilot committee along with Director Dew. Director Dew stated that City of Benicia Council Member Terry Scott said that he was putting together a funding plan to build a terminal. Chair Wunderman added that major developments were being proposed for the Solano shoreline and in Martinez.

Chair Wunderman said that he and the Bay Area Council are one of the leaders working on getting a transportation measure on the ballot in 2026 to support agencies facing a fiscal cliff. He

credited Senator Scott Wiener and Senator Jesse Arreguín for their efforts, acknowledging the challenges due to the differing interests and positions of each county.

The Directors expressed their appreciation for the contribution and efforts of Director DeIBono. They highlighted the importance of finding the best solution from diverse thoughts and welcomed Director Henneberry to the Board.

## **5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Mr. Murphy thanked Director DeIBono for leaving a lasting legacy including his instrumental work on Regional Measure (RM) 3. He welcomed Director Henneberry and said that Director Henneberry met with staff for a quick introduction to SF Bay Ferry.

Mr. Murphy invited Digital Communications Specialist Teo Saragi to provide an update on community outreach with support from marketing and outreach consulting firm Next Steps Marketing (Next Steps). Marketing, Communications and Outreach Analyst Harlo Pippenger of Next Steps introduced himself. They shared their presentation on the background, efforts, accomplishments, and feedback over the past several months including curating an outreach event with community-based organization Family Bridges.

Teo Saragi introduced Public Information and Marketing Manager Alexis Matsui to share more community outreach news promoting the launch of transit month September. Ms. Matsui said that SF Bay Ferry would be partnering with Alameda-Contra Costa Transit (AC Transit) and San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to provide transit for participants to join a parade celebrating the 75th anniversary of Children's Fairyland at the park on September 1. She said that social media influencer Keiyana Arnold, who has been acting as SF Bay Ferry's "ferry godmother", would be participating in the event.

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath presented the year-end close summary of financials for fiscal year 2025 coming in below budget by about \$8.5 million and provided some detail explaining the variance, including the significant savings from fuel.

Mr. Murphy introduced Communications and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte to provide state and federal legislative updates to the written reports.

Chair Wunderman said that there were bills that would enable development to occur in locations with mass transit capacity.

Mr. Murphy invited Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan to present the ridership report. Mr. Chan reported that ridership was up and that projections for the coming year were significantly more aggressive than in past years and that Caltrain and BART reported increased ridership as well.

The Directors thanked Mr. Chan for his report and asked for continued 2019 and other regional agency recovery comparisons. Chair Wunderman noted other ways to increase ridership by adding more service to existing routes or adding new routes.

Project Delivery and Engineering Manager Timothy Hanners presented a quarterly review of the capital program in place of Chief Capital Program Officer Gary Griggs who was under the weather. Mr. Hanners focused on the direction and challenges of the Rapid Electric Emission-Free (REEF) Program Phase 1 and 2 and other key milestones.

Mr. Hanners said that SF Bay Ferry had received a grant award in the amount of \$14.7 million from the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust to convert the MV *Hydrus* to an all-battery electric vessel.

Mr. Hanners stated that it was not anticipated that the universal charging float would be subject to the building code. He discussed an option that was being considered to provide interim temporary power to ensure REEF Phase 2 goals could be met with the vessels.

The Directors expressed concerns about the Embarcadero Seawall improvements and implications for the ferry system. Capital Planning Manager Chad Mason said that his recent meeting with the Port of San Francisco's flood resiliency team found favorable alignment with the anticipated work south of the ferry terminal but was more complex north of the ferry terminal.

The Directors thanked staff for their work and comprehensive reports.

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Team Folds Representative Alita Dupree provided general comments to the reports of staff.

### **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Dew made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025
- b. Authorize the Submittal of an Application with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for \$5,457,000 in Regional Measure 3 Capital Funds
- c. Ratify the First Amendment to Contract #24-027 with Pacific Power Group, LLC for MV Peralta Main Engine Preventative Maintenance Services

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

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

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

### **7. AWARD CONTRACT TO THE DUTRA GROUP FOR THE VALLEJO FERRY TERMINAL DREDGING PROJECT**

Mr. Mason presented this item recommending the following:

1. Award a contract to The Dutra Group (Dutra) for the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Dredging Project (Project) in the amount of \$1,249,500; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into the contract and take any other related actions as may be needed to support the Project.

Mr. Mason said staff had issued an Invitation for Bid and found Dutra to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the project.

Director of Operations and Customer Experience Thomas Hall said that he anticipated the dredging work to take approximately four days and using similar messaging used for the low tides.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-27 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, Dew, Henneberry, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**8. APPROVE DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SBE) OVERALL TRIENNIAL GOALS FOR FFY 2026 THROUGH FFY 2028**

Government and Regulatory Affairs Specialist Terence Candell presented this item recommending approving the following actions associated with the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority's (WETA) federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026-2028 overall triennial Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goals:

1. Establish a 0.14% overall triennial DBE goal applicable to anticipated WETA contracts assisted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); and
2. Establish a 5% Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goal applicable to anticipated WETA contracts assisted by FTA

Mr. Candell gave a brief overview of the DBE program and SF Bay Ferry's efforts in complying with the program. He said that since the program's inception, WETA has met its triennial goals through landside contracts. He reminded the Board of the limited DBE availability on vessel and marine-related projects.

Ms. Gulate commended Mr. Candell for his work on the program.

WETA legal counsel Katherine Tsou confirmed compliance with the regulations on the program.

The Directors expressed disappointment with the goal but appreciated the transparency of the information that was shared.

Chair Henneberry made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-28 approving this item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Team Folds Representative Alita Dupree spoke in support of the DBE program.

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

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

**9. 2025 ONBOARD PASSENGER SURVEY RESULTS**

Mr. Hall presented this informational item on the 2025 onboard passenger survey results. He said this survey has been conducted annually since 2022 at Board direction and that the 2025 survey marks the second onboard survey completed by local research firm Corey, Canapary & Galanis on behalf of SF Bay Ferry.

Mr. Hall shared his presentation on the key findings and next steps. He said that there would be continued work to improve rider alert notification protocols.

The Directors found the individual comments invaluable and recommended continuing the annual survey to guide future priorities.

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

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

Chair Wunderman called for public comments for non-agenda items.

Team Folds Representative Alita Dupree spoke of her transit experiences.

Member of the public, Isabel, found the information from the survey very interesting and informative.

Oakland resident and Bay City News transportation reporter Andres shared challenges and frustrations of riders and advocated for free or reduced transfers with Clipper 2.0.

Director Alba expressed interest in adding income demographic comparisons to the next survey.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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