

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

*[November 13, 2025]*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street, 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, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Pippin Dew, and Director Michael Henneberry 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 had hoped that the atmospheric river today was not affecting ferry service.

Chair Wunderman shared that he would be leaving the Bay Area Council at the end of the year, after 21 years, to join California Forever in Solano County but his involvement with the SF Bay Ferry Board would not change. He said that the excitement and opportunity to address housing, jobs, and shipbuilding were of interest to him. He said that creating a shipbuilding opportunity in the region was a big part of the plan.

Chair Wunderman said that he was excited to be christening the next vessel, *MV Zalophus*.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Moyer said that she caught some media this morning that profiled SF Bay Ferry, highlighting positive feedback from riders relieved from having to drive under adverse weather conditions. She added a reminder about investing in public transit, noting that she arrived safely via Caltrain with flooding and traffic conditions in the region.

Chair Wunderman hoped to apply lessons learned from past experiences at California Forever.

Director Dew remarked that the Vallejo dredging project appeared to go smoothly.

The Directors congratulated and offered support to Chair Wunderman in his new role and acknowledged his previous contributions and commitment to improving the regional transportation landscape and infrastructure.

## **5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy congratulated Chair Wunderman and his continued role on the board.

Mr. Murphy invited Emergency Response and Safety Analyst Cameron Bochman to talk about the latest emergency response functional exercise which tested SF Bay Ferry's virtual emergency response operations center platform. Mr. Bochman said that the exercise was designed to encourage active participation and a no-fault learning experience that included SF Bay Ferry's contract operator, Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold).

Mr. Bochman said that his after-action report was to formally document feedback and plan for next steps including updating the Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Response Plan.

Mr. Bochman acknowledged the challenge of balancing safety and operational readiness in coordinating emergency response but expressed confidence in responding quickly to incidents after a brief assessment period.

Mr. Murphy asked Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte to give a briefing on the legislative reports before inviting Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) Partners Matt Robinson and Michael Pimentel to provide a more comprehensive state legislative update relating to SF Bay Ferry. Mr. Robinson stated that members are facing a challenging session with a cap of 35 bills imposed by Assembly and Senate leaders, necessitating a focus on legislative priorities. He highlighted a few of the successes including those relating to the regional measure, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption, and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

Mr. Robinson discussed the Cap-and-Trade Program, the sales and use tax exemption for zero-emission bus purchases that is set to expire at the start of the fiscal year, and the efforts of the Transit Transformation Task Force (TTTF) for a path forward for long-term financial and operational sustainability.

The Directors talked about transit-oriented development opportunities and strategies for receiving funding including specific funding measures for SF Bay Ferry that are separate from other agencies and finding ferry advocates.

The Directors thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Pimentel for their work and informative presentation.

Mr. Murphy provided written reports and invited Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan to provide the October ridership report and Chief Capital Program Officer Gary Griggs to provide the quarterly capital program.

Mr. Chan reported a dip in ridership compared to last year due to inclement weather and the reduced activities during Fleet Week.

Mr. Griggs shared his presentation for the fiscal year (FY) 2025/26 capital program that included major accomplishments since the last reporting period, challenges, and a look ahead summary.

Mr. Griggs thanked the capital program team and acknowledged the Board for their leadership and support.

The Directors thanked staff for their reports.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Dew made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2025
- b. Approve Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026

Vice Chair Moyer seconded the motion, and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

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

## **7. APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 CAPITAL BUDGET**

Chief Executive Officer Erin McGrath presented this item recommending approving an amendment to the FY 2025/26 capital budget to provide an additional \$4,380,317 for various capital repair and replacement projects.

Ms. McGrath explained that the changes were minor and were due to timing shifts.

The Directors asked about considering a two-year budget to accommodate the unpredictability of funding timing for large projects. WETA Legal Counsel Steven Miller of Hanson Bridgett LLP replied that legislation required an annual budget.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-41 approving this item.

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

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

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

## **8. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR NEW FERRY OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Murphy discussed key evaluation criteria important for decision making before introducing Director of Operations and Customer Experience Thomas Hall to provide some background and the development of the request for proposal (RFP).

Mr. Murphy acknowledged fiscal sustainability issues in the evaluation process and stated that labor protections would be maintained requiring the successful proposer to operate under the conditions of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) consistent with the 2011 RFP.

Mr. Hall reminded the Board that the original contract was initially awarded to Blue & Gold in 2011 for a ten-year period and was extended by five years during the pandemic to ensure workforce stability. SF Bay Ferry engaged Maritime Consulting Partners (MCP) to assist in developing an RFP and transitioning to a new agreement, emphasizing the importance of fairness and transparency. He acknowledged the ad hoc committee of Chair Wunderman and Vice Chair Moyer for their valuable feedback and guidance on policy issues throughout the process.

Mr. Hall shared his presentation which included the process used to develop the RFP, the evaluation criteria designed to fulfill guiding principles, and the timeline of the RFP process.

Mr. Hall asked Mr. Miller to speak about communication protocols during the period between public issuance of the RFP and recommendation of award. Mr. Miller stated that to prevent disqualification risks and allow the Board to deliberate without biases that a 'cone of silence' period will be implemented restricting communication regarding the RFP applicable to all parties. He advised the

Board to redirect any communications received during this period to the Executive Director to maintain the integrity of the process.

Mr. Hall stated that emergency services are included in the scope of services along with emergency training requirements and the general funding sources in response to Director Dew.

Mr. Hall said that adjusting fixed and overhead costs based on fluctuations within a range of operating hours and level of service would be negotiated in response to unforeseen circumstances expressed by Chair Wunderman, emphasizing key protections under the CBA.

Mr. Hall outlined the vetting and negotiation process anticipating negotiating with the highest-ranking proposer with the possibility of soliciting revised proposals or revisiting initial rankings if negotiations do not proceed favorably.

Director Henneberry emphasized that the current CBA was valid until 2029 and received confirmation from Mr. Murphy that the new vendor must adhere to the current CBA unless a mutual decision to change terms is negotiated with employee representatives.

Vice Chair Moyer requested clarification on the worker retention criterion and the grading for relevant experience.

Mr. Hall stressed the value of retaining existing frontline staff with the workforce retention criterion to maintain operational effectiveness. He said the focus would be on assessing the firm's management capabilities and experience and finding efficiencies at the management and administrative level and understanding emergency response, labor relationships, and workforce development needs.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the Public Isabelle Hodge asked for some clarity about commenting on the recommendation.

International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P) Regional Representative Northern California Sly Hunter, also representing the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) requested postponing action on item 8 to allow for further discussions on labor protections and the remedy for dispute.

Blue & Gold President Patrick Murphy suggested considering additional operational experience points.

Mr. Murphy acknowledged that the clarity of the response regarding labor protections could be improved. He said that the 10 percent evaluation component ensures job security for the existing workforce and 35 percent for price was appropriate to enhance service cost efficiencies.

Mr. Miller explained that the CBA outlines who has priority if there is a reduction in staff.

The Directors thanked staff for their thoughtfulness and efforts on the RFP.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion approving this item following a meeting with MM&P and IBU before issuing the RFP.

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

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

**9. APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE SF BAY FERRY PASSENGER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan presented this item recommending approving amendments to the SF Bay Ferry Passenger Code of Conduct (Code) including its associated enforcement policy.

Mr. Regan stated that the Code was being updated to reflect evolving operational conditions and passenger expectations.

The Directors expressed the possibility of reevaluating the term “recreational” regarding the classification and enforcement of mobility devices.

Mr. Bochman said that a standardized policy was needed to move toward improving consistency and clarity in policy enforcement.

Director Dew made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-42 approving this item, noting the change from WETA to SF Bay Ferry in the first paragraph.

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

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

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

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

Chair Wunderman called for public comments for non-agenda items, and there were none.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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