

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, JUNE 18, 2008

San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority

- CAC ATTENDEES:** Diane Howard, City of Redwood City; Laurie Capitelli, City of Berkeley; Michael Kerns, Sonoma County; Barbara Heller, City of San Rafael; Ed Balico, City of Hercules; Tom Butt, City of Richmond; Dave Whittum, City of Sunnyvale; Claudette Ford, City of Berkeley (alt.) ; Paul Albritton, City of Sausalito; Kathy Hartzell, City of Larkspur
- CAC ABSENTEES:** Judy Arnold, City of Novato (alt) ;Miles Berger, City of Tiburon; March Church, San Mateo County; Osby Davis, City of Vallejo; Alice Fredericks, City of Tiburon; Salvatore Evola, City of Pittsburg (alt.) ; Alice Fredericks, Tiburon (alt.) Pedro Gonzalez, City of South San Francisco; Fred Hansson, City of San Mateo; Ben Johnson, City of Pittsburg; Michael Kerns, Sonoma County; Otto Lee, City of Sunnyvale (alt);Robert Lieber, City of Albany; Joan Lundstom, City of Larkspur (alt);Elizabeth Patterson, City of Benicia; Tony Santos, City of San Leandro; Robert Schroder, City of Martinez; John Silva, Sonoma County; Arne Simonsen, City of Antioch, Kris Valstad, City of Hercules (alt.)
- GUESTS:** Lorianna Kastrop, Port of Redwood City; Barry Nagel, City of South San Francisco (for Pedro Gonzalez); Linda Perry, City of Berkeley
- WETA:** Charlene Haught Johnson, WETA Board Chair; Mare Culnane; Nina Rannells; Shirley Douglas; Keith Stahnke; John Sindzinski; Stanley Taylor, (Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott) WETA General Council
- MEETING DATE:** JUNE 18, 2008
- FROM:** Shirley Douglas, Community Relations Manager

The Community Advisory Committee held its meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

1. Call to Order

Chair Diane Howard called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and welcomed everyone to the reconstituted CAC. She welcomed new CAC member Laurie Capitelli, City of

Berkeley and guest Lorianna Kastrop, recently newly appointed to the Redwood City Port Commission.

2. Roll Call

Chair Diane Howard asked for members to introduce themselves.

3. Motion to Approve December 5, 2007 Minutes

Mr. Ed Balico, Hercules, requested a change on pg. 3 “funding has been made available to extend **Highway 4** (not highway 2)”. Mr. Laurie Capitelli, Berkeley, noted that all references to the Board meeting date should be consistent – **December 5, 2007**. Ms. Kathleen Hartzell, Larkspur, suggested that the meeting minutes include a list of CAC attendees as well as CAC members that were absent. A motion to approve the December 5, 2007 minutes, including the above noted changes, was made by Ms. Barbara Heller, San Rafael, and seconded by Mr. Paul Albritton, Sausalito. Motion passed with Ms. Kathleen Hartzell, Larkspur, Mr. Barry Nagel, South San Francisco, and Mr. Dave Whittum, Sunnyvale, abstaining. There was no opposition.

4. Remarks from CAC Chair Diane Howard

Chair Diane Howard thanked the WETA for reconstituting the CAC and looks forward to working with WETA to improve water transit in the bay area. She introduced Ms. Charlene Haught Johnson, WETA Board Chair.

5. Remarks from WETA Board Chair – Charlene Haught Johnson

WETA Board Chair, Ms. Charlene Haught Johnson reviewed the provisions of SB 976, which created WETA effective January 1, 2008. Focus is now 2 fold: emergency response and commuter ferry service. She reviewed the role that CAC had played since the inception of the WTA. She reported that at the first meeting of the WETA Board on March 31, the board agreed to reconstitute the CAC. She thanked CAC members for all the help WTA had received over the years and especially Diane Howard for continuing to Chair the CAC and for being a tireless ferry supporter.

She asked if there was a preference for a short name for WETA. There was a consensus for the use of the name **WET** A as opposed to **WEETA**.

Chair Haught Johnson announced that regrettably Steve Castleberry resigned as Executive Director last month due to personal reasons. She introduced Nina Rannells, as WETA’s Interim Executive Director. A new WETA Executive Director will be announced at the WETA Board meeting on June 19 and he will start work on July 21, 2008. The new WETA Board has 5 Board members including 2 former WTA board members, besides Chair Haught Johnson: Anthony Intintolli, former Mayor of Vallejo and Vice Chair of the WETA Board, and Beverly Johnson, Mayor of the City of Alameda. The 2 new Board members are Gerald Bellows, Logistics Management Officer

for the U.S. Maritime Administration and John O'Rourke, Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. They each have identical 6 year terms.

Chair Haught Johnson commented that WETA's role is expanded with SB976, which provides a new framework for WETA's work. SB 976 requires WETA to prepare an Emergency Response Plan and a Transition Plan, incorporating City of Alameda and Vallejo service into WETA by July, 2009.

Chair Haught Johnson reviewed the issues that will delay the start of construction of the SSF ferry terminal this year. These include a 6 month delay in approval of the State Department of Boating and Waterways of the Lease Agreement with South San Francisco, WETA and the Harbor District. The Lease Agreement provides the legal authority to start construction in Oyster Point. WETA is also awaiting approval from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority to advance needed sales tax dollars to fund the lease with the Harbor District and a portion of the pier construction costs. These 2 issues will delay the start of pile driving and dredging during critical construction windows this year. WETA is working to resolve these 2 issues and may request CAC support with local legislators to help WETA move the terminal construction forward.

Ms. Kathy Hartzell, Larkspur, asked about the vessels that are scheduled to arrive this fall when the Oyster Point Terminal will not be completed. Ms. Nina Rannells responded that the first 2 vessels are spare vessels and WETA is talking to other bay area transit operators about how we might integrate these spare vessels into their services.

Chair Haught Johnson, introduced Ms. Nina Rannells, the Interim Executive Director, and Deputy Director of Finance and Administration.

6. Organizational and Funding Updates-Nina Rannells, Interim Executive Director

Ms. Nina Rannells reviewed the provisions of SB 976 which consolidates the Alameda-Oakland Ferry Service/Harbor Bay Service and the Vallejo Baylink service under WETA to create a regional ferry system to provide a waterborne response to a disaster. She also reviewed SB 1093, sponsored by Senator Wiggins, which is clean up legislation to SB 976. Since the City of Vallejo and Alameda want to ensure they have a voice in the Transition Plan, SB 1093 includes language to better define what will be included in the Transition Plan and ensures that the Plan is consistent with Vallejo and Alameda's Capital Improvement Plans, Local waterfront plans and other good governance issues. She reported that SB 1093 passed out of the Senate and was heard in the Assembly Transportation Committee on last Monday, June 16, 2008. No problems are anticipated with passing SB 1093.

Ms. Nina Rannells announced that the California Department of Homeland Security, who administers the Prop 1B funds, approved the allocation of \$25 million to WETA for FY 2007/2008 on June 17, 2008. Funding will be allocated as follows:

- Preliminary Investigations/Environmental Reviews for Redwood City, Richmond, Antioch, Martinez (\$2million)
- Final Design for Berkeley and Hercules Terminals (\$3 million)
- Terminal and Vessel Construction for South San Francisco (\$10 million)
- Maintenance Barge and Emergency Floats (\$5 million)
- Maintenance Facility for Vallejo (\$5 million)

This is the first Prop 1B Allocation that could go up as high as \$250 million. Funding is allocated in each fiscal year's budget.

7. Vessel Construction Update- Mare Culnane, Marine Engineering Manager

Ms. Mare Culnane presented a power point presentation with highlights of the construction progress of WTA spare vessels that are under construction in Washington. The first 149 passenger vessel (Gemini) is scheduled for delivery in September, 2008 and the second 149 passenger vessel (Pisces) is scheduled for delivery in December, 2008.

Mr. Paul Albritton, Sausalito, asked for a comparison of the per passenger mile of emissions for ferries compared to the per passenger mile of emissions for vehicles. Ms. Culnane responded that emissions per seat mile was the comparison used in WETA's emissions studies. WETA ferries are equivalent to car emissions in 2025 on an emissions per seat mile comparison, assuming 4 passengers per car.

Ms. Kathy Hartzell, Larkspur, questioned if the new vessels incorporated new ADA requirements. Ms. Culnane responded that the new vessels fully complied, in anticipation of new ADA rules being required this summer, including the following:

- 2 restrooms both meet ADA requirements
- Passageways are ADA compliant
- Width of the aisle and height of snack bar counter were designed to meet ADA requirements
- Fire alarm has provisions for visual and hearing impaired
- ADA seating capacity was doubled from 2 seats to 4 seats

Mr. Mike Kearns, Sonoma County, asked about the status of the Nichols Brothers bankruptcy. Mr. Taylor, WETA Legal Council, responded that they are still in the reorganization phase and WETA's contract has been assigned to Kvichak Marine Industries. Also WETA's vessel construction continues to be performed according to WETA's specifications and the approved construction costs.

Mr. Ed Balico, Hercules, asked if all the vessels are being built by the same company and if any will be built by local contractors. Ms. Culnane responded that the first 2 vessels are being built by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, and the next 2 by Kvichak Marine Industries. Bay Ship and Yacht, located in the City of Alameda, are a subconsultant on

the Nichols Brothers contract and will do all the repairs and maintenance in the next 25 years.

Ms. Hartzell, Larkspur, requested information on the vessel seating arrangement. Chair Howard responded that Ms. Culnane had previously made a presentation to the CAC on the vessel interiors and perhaps this presentation could be done again at an upcoming CAC meeting, since there were so many new members.

Mr. Ed Balico, Hercules, asked about the status of the Hawaii Super ferry. Ms Culnane responded that the Hawaii Super Ferry is now in operation, but ran into problems for failure to follow the environmental documentation process.

8. Service Updates – John Sindzinski, Manager of Planning and Development

A. South San Francisco Terminal Construction Packages

Mr. John Sindzinski reviewed WETA's success in developing standardized float designs for SSF that are fully ADA compliant, and that can be used in other WETA terminal locations. He also reviewed recent work obtaining BCDC input on the SSF terminal design, which required adding a terminal viewing area to meet BCDC requirement "for maximum viewing access." These efforts will expedite approvals at other terminal locations.

B. Berkeley/Albany and Hercules Environmental Documents

WETA recently received Federal Transit Administration (FTA) comments on the Draft EIR/S for Berkeley/Albany and expects to have public hearings on the draft document in August/September, 2008. Mr. Capitelli, Berkeley asked about a requirement in the language approving RM 2 funds that states that "funding would be transferred to another ferry site in the east bay if the WTA does not have an entitled terminal site within the Berkeley/Albany encatchment area by 2010 that meets its requirements." Mr. Sindzinski responded that WETA fully expects to have an entitled site by 2010.

Mr. Sindzinski reported that the administrative Draft EIR/S for Hercules is under review by WETA staff. Public hearings on the Draft EIR/S will likely be held in October, 2008, following review by FTA.

C. Other Projects – Richmond, Redwood City, Antioch and Martinez

Mr. Sindzinski reported that the WETA Board is scheduled to consider the staff recommendation to award contracts to environmental consultants to start the environmental document process for Richmond, Redwood City, Antioch, and Martinez at its meeting of June 19, 2008. Work would begin after all contracts are approved and negotiated, likely early August, 2008. Mr. Sindzinski thanked staff from Richmond, Redwood City, Antioch and Martinez who assisted in the process reviewing proposals and participating in the interview process. It was a very cooperative process.

9. Community Outreach/Marketing Activities- Shirley Douglas, Community Relations Manager

Ms. Shirley Douglas reported that outreach activities continue and include:

- Publication of the March issue of the WETA Quarterly newsletter, Full Speed Ahead, as well as South San Francisco Ferry News and a Berkeley/Albany newsletter.
- Business outreach events in South San Francisco and Redwood City
- Annual Lunch for the Office Bunch event aboard the Sausalito Ferry on planned September 5 and 19
- Planning activities for the new vessel arrival in September, 2008 as soon as the delivery schedule is confirmed.

Ms. Hartzell, Larkspur, suggested that WETA consider requesting CAC assistance with the new vessel celebration as the vessel delivery schedule develops. Ms. Douglas responded that she will do so via e-mail as the need develops.

Mr. Albritton, Sausalito, asked if CAC alternates were permitted. Ms. Douglas responded that CAC alternates are permitted and the local jurisdictions need only notify WETA of the alternate contact information. Chair Howard encouraged the appointment of alternates.

Mr. Balico, Hercules, requested that CAC members be provided updates on the progress of SB 1093 and other legislative matters via e-mail and ask for help from CAC should legislative support be required.

Discussion followed again on WETA's abbreviated name. There was consensus that rather than refer to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority as WEETA or WETA, just the W.E.T.A. Initials should be used as the abbreviated WETA name. As there was consensus on this approach, Ms. Haught Johnson agreed to the suggestion.

10. Schedule of Future Meetings – Diane Howard

Chair Howard suggested that the CAC continue meeting quarterly and that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday September 17, 2008 in the Port Commission Room, 10 am – 12 pm. There was consensus on the next CAC meeting date.

11. Public Comment

New Port of Redwood City Commissioner, Lorianna Kastrop, commented on how delighted she was to be a part of the process of developing ferry service in the bay area and looked forward to working with CAC members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.