

WATER TRANSIT AUTHORITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Berkeley Residents Support Bringing Back Ferries by a 3-1 Margin

***Berkeley Transportation and Waterfront Commissions & WTA to Host
Public Meeting to Discuss Plans for Berkeley Ferry Service
May 12, 2005 7:30-9:30pm., North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue***

BERKELEY— A poll released by the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority (WTA) shows that 76% of Berkeley and Albany residents think the ferry is “a good idea” and support new service between Berkeley/Albany and San Francisco.

“The time has come to bring ferries back to Berkeley,” said Mayor Tom Bates of Berkeley. “This public survey demonstrates what Berkeley residents have known all along – we need real transportation alternatives that get people out of their cars. Ferries are an important piece of the puzzle, and I’m committed to making this happen in the Berkeley Marina.”

The poll of 600 voters was commissioned by the WTA, the regional agency charged by the State to expand water transit in San Francisco Bay. Funding for Berkeley ferry service is included in Regional Measure 2 (March 2004) from new bridge tolls.

Norman LaForce, Coordinator on Ferry Issues for the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club said, “Environmentalists were pleased at the public’s support for ferry service from University Avenue. Among the discussed locations, it is the best site. It’s great to see that the people of Berkeley and Albany agree.” Forty-nine percent of the respondents favored University Avenue as the preferred site for the new terminal followed by Gilman Street (28%) and Buchanan Street in Albany (15%).

The public meeting will include a presentation by the WTA on the public opinion survey, parking studies, next steps for planning new Berkeley ferry service and time for public input.

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