



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shirley Douglas, WETA
Office: 415-364-3191
Cell: 415-321-0874

ALAMEDA HARBOR BAY FERRY RIDERS SET TO SAIL TO SAN FRANCISCO ONBOARD "PISCES" – BAY AREA'S NEWEST FERRY

San Francisco (June 4, 2009) -- The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) and the City of Alameda today announced some exciting news for San Francisco-bound ferry riders. Starting Monday afternoon, June 8, Alameda Harbor Bay ferry riders will be treated to a daily ferry commute onboard *Pisces*, the Bay Area's newest ferry. *Pisces*' interior design responds to Bay Area commuters' desire for convenience and comfort. The ferry has several seating options to maximize passenger comfort, plus room for 34 bicycles, 20% more capacity than similar sized ferries on the Bay.

Pisces will initially be used on the afternoon Harbor Bay ferry service to San Francisco, sharing service with the *Bay Breeze*--the existing primary vessel for Harbor Bay. It will gradually be put into full Harbor Bay morning and afternoon ferry service once extensive overhaul of the *Bay Breeze* gets underway later this year.

Pisces is the second of two 25 knot, 149-passenger "state of the art" vessels recently built by WETA. The City of Alameda manages the Harbor Bay ferry service and contracts with Harbor Bay Maritime to operate the service. The City of Alameda chartered the WETA-owned ferry for use on the Harbor Bay Ferry service.

Like its sister vessel, *Gemini*, which set sail on the Tiburon-San Francisco commute in December 2008, *Pisces* is the nation's most environmentally friendly ferryboat. Its exhaust is 85% cleaner than EPA emissions standards for Tier II (2007) marine engines and is ten times cleaner than existing Bay Area ferries. *Pisces* also incorporates innovative measures to protect bay and marine life, including low-wake, low-wash hulls.

Both *Gemini* and *Pisces* were constructed with \$17 million of funding from Bay Bridge tolls (Regional Measure 2) approved by Bay Area voters in 2004.

WETA is a regional agency mandated to develop and operate a regional ferry system that connects communities, increases regional mobility, and provides an emergency response capability. WETA's priorities are to consolidate Vallejo and Alameda ferry services under WETA and to add new ferry routes consistent with the provisions of a Transition Plan and to coordinate all waterborne emergency response activities consistent with an Emergency Water Transportation System Management Plan.