

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC MEETING IN REDWOOD CITY ON PROPOSED
FERRY SERVICE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY**

San Francisco (May 13, 2009) - The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) and the San Mateo County Transit Advocates are hosting a public meeting on Thursday, May 14 to update San Mateo County residents about:

**WETA's Priorities for Ferry Service and Waterborne Emergency Response Coordination
in San Mateo County**

When: **Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City**

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) is charged with consolidating City of Alameda and City of Vallejo ferry services and all planned public transportation ferries under WETA, including new ferry service in South San Francisco and Redwood City. WETA also has expanded responsibility for coordinating emergency response activities for public waterborne transit services. These responsibilities are to be carried out in accordance with a **Transition Plan*** and an **Emergency Water Transportation System Management Plan.*** WETA is required to create and adopt both plans by July 1, 2009 and to take public input prior to their adoption. Public hearings were held last month in San Francisco, Alameda, and Vallejo to solicit public comments.

San Mateo County Transit Advocates is a coalition of elected officials, business, labor and environmental leaders, who have worked for over 6 years to build support and obtain funding for San Mateo County Ferry service. Their successful advocacy for funding in the reauthorization of San Mateo County Measure A sales tax was largely responsible for \$30 million of sales tax funding being allocated for ferry service in South San Francisco and Redwood City. The Measure A Sales Tax is administered by the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

***The Transition Plan** will guide the consolidation of the Vallejo, Alameda/Oakland and Harbor Bay ferries under WETA. The Golden Gate Ferry service will continue to be operated by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. The Transition Plan also includes the following financially constrained elements:

- A five-year Operating Plan describing existing services and planned service expansions including South San Francisco and Berkeley ferry service; and
- A five-year Capital Improvement Program identifying all assets required to maintain, sustain and expand the system as planned.

***The Emergency Water Transportation System Management Plan** sets a framework for coordination and response and recovery efforts in the event of an emergency by using passenger ferries. It provides a detailed definition of WETA's roles and responsibilities for incident planning, response and recovery, and restoration of normal ferry operations.

Comments on both Plans will be accepted until the close of business on Monday, May 18, 2009. Written comments should be sent to Plan Comments, WETA, Pier 9, Suite 111, The Embarcadero, and San Francisco, CA 94111. The public is also invited to provide comment via e-mail to contactus@watertransit.org.

WETA is a regional agency created by the State of California to develop and operate an environmentally responsible regional ferry system that connects communities, reduces congestion, and provides an emergency response capability. A board of five members appointed by the Governor and Legislature governs WETA.