

August 25, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY

Water Emergency Transportation Authority Board of Directors Approves Increase to FY15/16 Operating Budget to Support Service Enhancements

WHO: Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA)

WHAT: The WETA Board of Directors approved an increase to the FY 2015/2016 operating budget to support service enhancements that address the ongoing capacity constraints and high ridership demand on San Francisco Bay Ferry. The service enhancements, in effect since early August, have been extended through October 30, 2015 and include:

- A direct trip from San Francisco's Pier 41 to Oakland and Alameda Main Street at 4:00 PM
- Weekday 4:45 PM Ferry Building bus departure to Vallejo
- Weekday 5:30 PM Ferry Building departure arriving in Vallejo at approximately 6:35 PM (on a 199-passenger vessel)
- In addition, back-up buses will continue to be used whenever the *M/V Vallejo* is in service during the afternoon commute period. Bus back-up also will be provided for all afternoon Ferry Building departures on Giants weekday afternoon game days.

WHY: As the Bay Area economy continues to grow, traffic congestion increases, and public transportation becomes an increasingly attractive option for getting around the Bay, many transit agencies are experiencing overcrowding. SF Bay Ferry system-wide ridership has increased more than 8 percent compared to last year. This has resulted in overcrowded boats on some peak commute-period departures. The WETA Board of Directors, leadership team, and operations team continue to explore ways to accommodate all passengers while managing the growth in ferry ridership.

QUOTE: "Addressing overcrowding and trying to find creative ways to deploy the SF Bay Ferry fleet is WETA's top priority," said Nina Rannells, WETA Executive Director. "These service enhancements are intended to maximize all available resources to maintain WETA's commitment to customer satisfaction and service quality in the near term, while our operations team focuses on identifying and implementing long-term solutions."

CONTACT:

Ernest Sanchez, sanchez@watertransit.org, 510.289.2530

MacKenzie Communications, jen@mackenziesf.com, p. 415.403.0800, c. 650.296.0626

###

About San Francisco Bay Ferry

San Francisco Bay Ferry is a service of the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). SF Bay Ferry serves the San Francisco Ferry Building and Pier 41/Fisherman's Wharf, South San Francisco, Alameda Main Street, Harbor Bay, Oakland Jack London Square and Vallejo, along with seasonal service to AT&T Park.