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MEDIA ADVISORY

**WETA WINS \$3 MILLION GRANT FOR ALAMEDA OPERATIONS AND
MAINTAINENCE FACILITY**

- WHO:** Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA)
- WHAT:** Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration awarded WETA a \$3,000,000 grant to support the construction of a new Central Bay Maintenance and Operations Facility.
- WHERE:** Alameda Point, Alameda to serve as the base for WETA's existing and future central bay ferry operations.
- WHEN:** Grant awarded June 2, 2014; final design and permitting is underway
- WHY:** The proposed Alameda facility would consolidate central bay fleet maintenance services such as fueling, oil changes, concession supply, and light repairs thereby reducing operating expenses. The new facility will also serve as an Operations Control Center for day-to-day management and oversight of service and crews. In the event of a regional emergency, the facility would be WETA's Emergency Operations Center, serving passengers and providing essential water transit service for emergency response and recovery.
- HOW:** The entire Bay Area Congressional Delegation, led by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), joined with the International Master Mates & Pilots Union and the City of Alameda in actively supporting WETA's grant request.

OVERVIEW

PROJECT BENEFITS

- WETA will realize logistical and financial efficiencies in constructing this new maintenance and operations facility in the central bay. This facility will handle all routine servicing and maintenance work for WETA's ferry vessels operated in the central bay.

- The construction and day-to-day operations of this facility will create jobs for Alameda County and Bay Area residents.

QUOTES

“Passenger ferries play an important role in our nation’s transportation network by connecting people with the jobs and services they need to reach across the river, the bay, or other local waterway,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “We need Congress to pass a long-term transportation bill so we can continue to invest in ferry boat services that provide ladders of opportunity for hard-working families.”

“This grant is the result of the coordinated efforts of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, led by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the City of Alameda, the International Master Mates & Pilots Union, and WETA staff,” said WETA Board Member Jeff DelBono. “We thank them for their support of this important project.”

According to Nina Rannells, Executive Director of WETA, “The Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility will allow us to more efficiently and effectively maintain our growing fleet of commuter ferries, resulting in reduced maintenance costs and improved customer service.”

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ABOUT WETA

WETA was established by the state legislature to operate an integrated regional ferry service, expand ferry service on the bay, and coordinate the water transit response to a regional emergency. Under the San Francisco Bay Ferry brand, WETA operates daily passenger ferry service to the cities of Alameda, Oakland, San Francisco, Vallejo, and South San Francisco.