



July 14, 2014

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **REFURBISHED M.V. BAY BREEZE BRINGS ADDITIONAL PASSENGER CAPACITY TO GROWING FERRY SERVICE**

- WHO:** San Francisco Bay Ferry.
- WHAT:** Completely refurbished M.V. Bay Breeze returns to Harbor Bay service.
- WHERE:** Harbor Bay/San Francisco Ferry Building commuter route.
- WHEN:** Vessel passenger service began July 14, 2014.
- WHY:** SF Bay Ferry passenger loads increased significantly in 2013 and continue to increase in 2014. The refurbished 250 passenger Bay Breeze will bring needed additional carrying capacity to San Francisco Bay Ferry's Harbor Bay/San Francisco service thereby relieving occasional overcrowding.

#### **GENERAL BENEFITS**

- New control and navigation systems will reduce maintenance costs and increase vessel's service life.
- Improved passenger seating, along with restroom, and snack bar renovations will enhance the already enjoyable Bay crossing.

#### **RIDER BENEFITS**

- Onboard bicycle capacity increased to 32 bikes.
- ADA accessible restroom and wheelchair tie-downs.
- Improved WiFi service.
- Flat panel monitors for real-time vessel location display and safety announcements.
- Pull down trays on selected seats.
- New carpets, seats, snack bar and interior/exterior paint.

#### **OTHER PERTINENT FACTS**

- Total project cost: \$5,015,000.
- The project is funded with 80% Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funds and 20% Alameda Measure B Sales Tax Revenue.
- Vessel refurbishment contract awarded to Marine Group, Chula Vista, CA in March 2013.

- Bay Breeze was built in 1992 by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, Washington.
- Operated in Alameda/Oakland/SF route before being assigned to the Harbor Bay/San Francisco route.
- Vessel will primarily serve the Harbor Bay/San Francisco route, although it may occasionally operate on other SFBF routes.

## **QUOTES**

“We are very pleased that the Bay Breeze is back in service and we’ll be able to better accommodate our Harbor Bay passengers,” said Nina Rannells, executive director of the SF Bay Ferry. “The continuing growth in our passenger service is why this larger capacity vessel is so important.”

“Our passengers consistently rate the SF Bay Ferry as the best way to cross the Bay. The completely refurbished Bay Breeze will just make the crossing even more enjoyable,” said Ernest Sanchez, SF Bay Ferry head of marketing.

### **Media inquiries please contact:**

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### **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 and Angel Island.