

CONTACT

Ernest Sanchez
sanchez@watertransit.org
510.289.2530

MacKenzie Communications
jen@mackenziesf.com
415.403.0800

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WETA APPROVES UPDATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Document Guides Bay Area Emergency Water Transportation in the Event of Disaster

San Francisco, CA (March 8, 2016)—The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) has adopted an update to its Emergency Response Plan (ERP) designed to coordinate Bay Area water transportation operations in the event of a catastrophic event, such as an earthquake.

The ERP identifies WETA’s roles and responsibilities as coordinator of ferry service in the immediate aftermath of an emergency and outlines operations of the WETA Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In addition, the ERP identifies several action items on which WETA will work with partner agencies to improve emergency preparedness. These include exploring vessel fueling options, securing funding for emergency ferry operations, and ensuring that vessel crews and support staff can get to their vessels in a timely manner.

“Ferries will provide vital transportation for first responders, disaster service workers and survivors after a regional seismic event,” said Nina Rannells, executive director of WETA. “The adoption of an update to WETA’s Emergency Response Plan marks an important step forward in defining WETA’s role in response to a regional disaster and identifies action items that WETA can and will act on now in anticipation of a regional emergency.”

Nineteen stakeholder organizations participated in the validation of the Plan, which also outlines WETA’s coordinating role with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard. WETA’s ERP is one of several guidance documents designed to help Bay Area transportation agencies and authorities restore passenger transportation as safely and quickly as possible. WETA regularly updates the ERP, as well as conducts training and testing exercises and investigations with partner agencies, to ensure optimal preparedness. Complete copies of WETA’s Emergency Response Plan are available at www.sanfranciscobayferry.com/weta.

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.

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