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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WETA AWARDED \$4 MILLION GRANT FROM FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Grant Will Support Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 14, 2016) – The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) today announced that it has been awarded a \$4 million competitive grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for its Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project.

The Expansion Project, which is scheduled to begin construction in summer 2017, includes construction of up to three new ferry gates and vessel berthing facilities to support new ferry services from San Francisco to Richmond and Treasure Island, as well other potential locations currently under study, both in the East and South Bay. The project will improve landside conditions at the Ferry Terminal by providing new amenities, such as weather-protected canopies, the construction of a new plaza area south of the Ferry Building, the extension of pedestrian promenade areas, and other public access improvements. The expansion will also enable WETA to stage emergency water transit services in the event of a regional transportation disruption or disaster, part of its state charter.

“This grant is due to the great leadership we received from 13 members of Congress, including Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Mark DeSaulnier,” said Nina Rannells, executive director of WETA. “We thank each of them for their support, and for helping WETA realize our strategic, long-term goal of bringing additional ferry service to the Bay Area, while executing on our emergency response commitments.”

Also supporting the WETA grant were: Representatives Barbara Lee, Jared Huffman, Jackie Speier, Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, Eric Swalwell, Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, and Jerry McNerney.

Rannells added, “Improvements to the San Francisco Ferry Building ‘hub’ is a key element to expanding our services on the Bay, and validation of the important role ferry service will play in the future of the Bay Area’s transit infrastructure.”

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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