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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WETA BOARD APPROVES EXTENSION OF SUMMER SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH DECEMBER 2017

Extension made possible by \$2.5 million grant from MTC's Bay Bridge Forward Initiative

San Francisco, CA (August 5, 2016)—The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) Board of Directors yesterday authorized a FY2016/17 operating budget increase to support enhanced ferry schedules on impacted SF Bay Ferry routes.

This budget increase was made possible by a recent \$2.5 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Bay Bridge Forward initiative, a suite of programs that aims to offer commuters short-term congestion relief in the Bay Area's most congested corridor. The Bay Bridge Forward initiative focuses on solutions that can begin serving commuters within the next several years, and ferry service is a critical component for congestion relief.

Due to the ongoing demand for ferry service, and high ridership numbers during summer 2015, WETA enhanced service on the Alameda/Oakland and Vallejo routes for the period of May-October 2016. The MTC grant will enable WETA to extend the existing summer schedule through the end of calendar year 2017. Existing schedule enhancements that will now be extended through 2017 are:

- Alameda/Oakland/San Francisco – five additional weekday departures were added to alleviate vessel crowding, and the number of weekend departures was increased.
- Vallejo/San Francisco – three additional weekday departures were added at 8:00 AM, 5:30 PM, and 9:30 PM to reduce overcrowding.
- Terminal staffing – staffing at terminals was increased to manage crowds and facilitate ticket purchase during peak periods.

"MTC's inclusion of \$2.5 million in the Bay Bridge Forward program to support WETA ferry service represents an important step in our ability to deliver system enhancements in response to ridership increases and demand," said WETA Executive Director Nina Rannells. "As we plan for the future, WETA will continue to work collaboratively with local transit authorities to develop operational and funding plans to further expand ferry service."

To learn more about SF Bay Ferry schedules, visit www.sanfranciscobayferry.com.

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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