




## MEMORANDUM

November 22, 2024

TO: MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION  
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President  
Hon. Gail Gilman, Vice President  
Hon. Willie Adams  
Hon. Stephen Engblom  
Hon. Steven Lee

FROM: Elaine Forbes  
Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Request retroactive approval for members of the San Francisco Port Commission to travel with Port staff to Boston, Massachusetts on October 27-30, 2024 to attend the American Association of Port Authorities Annual Convention.

**DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Attached Resolution No. 24-52

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Port staff requests that the Port Commission retroactively approve President Kimberly Brandon and Vice President Gail Gilman's travel with Port staff to Boston, Massachusetts to attend the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) Annual Convention on October 27-30, 2024. This is AAPA's largest membership meeting of the year and provides Port staff and Port Commission officers an opportunity to represent the Port of San Francisco and meet with their counterparts from the U.S. and abroad.

### BACKGROUND

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. For more than a century, AAPA membership has empowered port authorities and their maritime industry partners to serve global customers and create economic and social value for their communities. Its events,

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resources, and partnerships connect, inform, and unify seaport leaders and maritime professionals who deliver prosperity around the Western Hemisphere. For its U.S. members, AAPA provides compelling advocacy and effective public outreach to influence seaports' most urgent public policy issues.

Today, AAPA continues to promote the common interests of the port community and provides critical industry leadership on security, trade, transportation, infrastructure, environmental, and other issues related to port development and operations. AAPA delivers programs and opportunities that provide outstanding value for all AAPA members, and special forums provide port executives and professionals the opportunity to discuss and collaborate to resolve the challenges most relevant to their ports.

The 113th AAPA Annual Convention was hosted in Boston, MA. This convention is the largest port event in the Americas, which gathers the major players and leaders of this industry, worldwide. The following were the various topics discussed at this year's convention:

- Legislative Updates
- Reducing Barriers to Planning for Port Resilience
- Port and Community Relations
- AI in the Port Industry
- Offshore Wind
- Cruise Conservation
- Enhancing Trade in the Western Hemisphere
- Maritime Decarbonization
- Strategies for Economic Development

Port Commission President Kimberly Brandon's and Port Commission Vice President Gail Gilman's attendance at the conference added additional prestige to the Port of San Francisco's representation at the annual convention, particularly with President Brandon's impressive background in the field of financial services and Vice President Gilman's extensive experience in real estate development and executive leadership.

This trip included a visit to an offshore wind terminal led by the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA). CAPA represents California's 11 major deepwater port authorities by advocating for and advancing the public policy objectives of ports at all levels of government. Since 1940, CAPA has worked to educate state and federal policymakers on port operations while also promoting the best interests of the maritime community.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Attached for your consideration and approval is a resolution authorizing Port Commission President Kimberly Brandon and Vice President Gail Gilman to travel with Port staff to Boston, MA on October 27-30, 2024. The cost of this trip is covered in the Port Commission's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

Prepared by: Jenica Liu  
Commission Affairs Manager

For: Elaine Forbes  
Executive Director

**PORT COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-52**

WHEREAS, The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) Annual Convention is its largest membership meeting of the year; and

WHEREAS, AAPA is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, For its U.S. members, AAPA provides compelling advocacy and effective public outreach to influence seaports' most urgent public policy issues; and

WHEREAS, This year's annual convention was held in Boston, MA on October 27-30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, As described in the staff report (incorporated herein), various topics were discussed at the conference that are of utmost importance to the Port; and

WHEREAS, Port Commission President Kimberly Brandon's and Port Commission Vice President Gail Gilman's attendance at the conference added additional prestige to the Port of San Francisco's representation at the annual convention, particularly with President Brandon's impressive background in the field of financial services and Vice President Gilman's extensive experience in real estate development and executive leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Port Commissioners' attendance at the conference was beneficial to gain knowledge and understand the issues facing all ports across the country and the world; and

WHEREAS, The cost of this trip is covered in the Port's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Port Commission hereby approves this travel request.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Port Commission at its meeting of November 25, 2024.***

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Secretary