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# WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WETA AND THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO BREAK GROUND ON PROJECT TO EXPAND FERRY SERVICE AND INCREASE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES**

San Francisco, CA, May 11, 2017: The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) and the Port of San Francisco today broke ground on the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project. WETA, in close partnership with the Port of San Francisco, is expanding and improving facilities at the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal to provide critical expanded regional ferry service, alleviate current local and regional transportation overcrowding, and increase WETA's emergency response capabilities in the event of a regional transportation disruption or disaster.

**“As the population continues to grow in this region, we need to find new transportation alternatives that reduce congestion on our freeways and ease the burden on our bus and rail systems,” said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. “Expanding our ferry network will provide residents with increased options for travelling around the Bay Area in a safe, convenient and reliable manner.”**

“This project is one facet of WETA's \$465 million investment in assets and infrastructure— including new terminals, maintenance and operations facilities, and vessels—to expand ferry service, prepare the system for future routes, and increase our emergency response capabilities,” said Nina Rannells, WETA executive director. “On behalf of the WETA Board of Directors and staff, I'd like to thank the Port and City for their partnership as we celebrate the groundbreaking of the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project.”

The Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project includes construction of two new ferry gates and vessel berthing facilities that will support new ferry services from San Francisco to Richmond and Treasure Island, as well as other potential locations currently under study. The Project also will improve landside conditions at the San Francisco 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 new gates and amenities will significantly improve waiting and queuing conditions for existing riders and expand the space available for WETA to stage emergency water transit services in the event of a regional transportation disruption or disaster.

“The Port is proud to prioritize the development of new and improved ferry landings which will benefit the environment, create jobs, prepare for emergencies and help safely move our growing population around the region,” said Elaine Forbes, executive director of the Port of San Francisco. “We are pleased to partner with WETA on the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project and to improve regional transportation for our residents and visitors alike.”

This project is one example of WETA and the Port's ongoing collaborative relationship. Other projects include the Mission Bay Ferry Landing, Treasure Island ferry service, ongoing planning and training exercises for emergency response preparedness, and daily ferry operations. WETA's San Francisco Bay Ferry carries approximately 2.4 million riders per year to and from Port of San Francisco facilities.

The groundbreaking was attended by more than 75 civic, government and business officials, including San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee and Supervisor Jane Kim.

This project is expected to be operational in 2019. This project is funded by Regional Measure 2 (RM2), State 1B and Federal Transit Administration funds. The contractor is Power Engineering Construction Co. and the architect is ROMA Design Group. The project construction cost is \$79 million.

#### **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.

#### **ABOUT THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO**

The Port of San Francisco manages the waterfront as the gateway to a world-class city, and advances environmentally and financially sustainable maritime, recreational and economic opportunities to serve the City, Bay Area, and California.

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