



MEMORANDUM

March 7, 2025

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 authorization to accept and expend a grant from the Water Emergency Transportation Authority to fund the Mission Bay Ferry Landing in the amount of \$28,000,000.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Attached Resolution No. 25-15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past ten years, Port staff have collaborated with the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) to design and construct a new ferry landing in Mission Bay. This landing will be located at the terminus of 16th Street, near Terry Francois Boulevard on Port property. The primary funding sources for this capital project includes a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Program, support from the City General Fund, funding from the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), Port capital funds, funding from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), a grant from The Regents of the University of California, University of San Francisco (UCSF), CalSTA Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds (TIRCP), and Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funding.

The Mission Bay Ferry Landing will provide vital regional ferry service to and from Mission Bay, Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and the Central Waterfront. It will support current and future transit demand, reduce vehicle trips, and encourage in-person office attendance. The project will accommodate up to 6,000 daily passengers and will

support the operation of the first zero-emission ferry network in the United States. This ferry landing will serve approximately 11,000 new housing units, 7 million square feet of new office and commercial space, over 1 million square feet of new retail space, and 70 acres of public open space.

The project aims to increase ferry ridership by providing reliable, timely, and direct transit between downtown San Francisco, and the major employment, housing, and entertainment venues in Mission Bay. This includes the UCSF Mission Bay hospital campus and the new Chase Center. Faculty, staff, patients, and visitors to the UCSF Mission Bay campus will benefit from convenient access to the Mission Bay Ferry Landing.

In 2016, the Port and WETA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define each agency's responsibilities in planning, designing, obtaining entitlements, and seeking capital funding for the construction of the facility. WETA is financially supporting the Port by providing a one-time construction grant of \$28,000,000 to help complete the Mission Bay Ferry Landing. This funding was awarded to WETA through the RM3 and CalSTA TIRCP programs.

RM3 was approved by a majority of voters in the nine Bay Area counties in 2018 and authorized a three-dollar bridge toll increase on the Bay Area's state-owned bridges to fund a comprehensive program of regional transportation improvements. RM3 includes capital funds for WETA, of which \$26 million is provided to support the Mission Bay Ferry Landing Project.

The TIRCP is a State of California initiative utilizing Cap and Trade sale proceeds to achieve transformative capital improvements that will significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion. WETA has received over \$38 million in funding through this program. Two million dollars of the funding will be used to construct the Mission Bay Ferry Landing.

This report outlines the proposed project to be funded by the grant and recommends approval of the attached resolution to authorize Port staff to accept and expend the grant, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The proposed Project supports the Port's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan through the following goals:

Sustainability: Advance environmental stewardship to limit climate change and protect the Bay.

The Project will reduce CO2 emissions, noise, and provide air quality improvements to disadvantaged communities.

Evolution: Evolve the waterfront to respond to changing public and Port needs.

The Project will support future deployment of additional zero emission technologies and reduce vehicle traffic on the Embarcadero and other Port streets.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Port and WETA began pursuing development of the Mission Bay Ferry Landing to create a southern hub for ferry service into San Francisco that will address regional transportation demand generated by the current and future development of the Mission Bay neighborhood.

Mission Bay Ferry Landing will provide the capability to berth two ferry boats simultaneously and it is estimated that the ferry landing will have the capacity to handle up to 6,000 passengers per day. The ferry landing is essential to alleviate current regional transportation congestion and provide transportation resiliency in the event of an earthquake, BART or Bay Bridge failure, or other unplanned events. Ferry service will reduce our community's carbon footprint, and the landing will be designed to accommodate expected sea-level rise.

The Port of San Francisco and WETA are leading the project with the support of other City and regional agencies. The project, authorized under a CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration, has obtained all regulatory agency permits. Phase 1 was completed in November 2020 and consisted of marine debris removal, dredging and preparation of the underwater site. Phase 2 will complete the project, and construction is anticipated to take place in summer and fall of 2025. The estimated total project design and construction cost are \$75.8 million.

The Mission Bay Ferry Landing will be constructed on Port property. Once the project is completed, the Port will lease the facility, land and water areas to WETA for facility operations and maintenance in accordance with the Port Commission Resolution No. 16-46 adopted by the Port Commission on December 13, 2016.

Project Scope and Schedule

The construction of Mission Bay Ferry Landing has been separated into multiple phases:

- **Phase 1** work was completed in 2020. The scope was initial site preparation and dredging of the Project area.
- **Phase 2a** is scheduled to be awarded in Q3 2025. This scope includes cleanup of marine debris in the Project area, dredging of the previously installed sand cap area, and installation of a marine mattress to serve as an erosion protection layer.

- **Phase 2b** work is scheduled to be awarded in Q2 2026. This scope includes the construction of the ferry landing pier and piles, ferry landing electrification infrastructure, and upland improvements to Ferry Landing Plaza and Agua Vista Park.

Project Budget

Funding Sources for the Mission Bay Ferry Landing Project.

Funding Sources	Amount (Millions)
WETA (RM3 and Other Grants)	\$ 28.0
EPA Clean Ports Grant	\$ 18.4
General Fund, OCII, SFPUC	\$ 10.8
Port Capital	\$ 7.0
SF Sales Tax	\$ 4.2
UCSF Grant	\$ 4.0
2012 General Obligation Bond	\$ 2.0
Total	\$75.4

PRESIDENT TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER

The Port is aware of the recent White House directive to temporarily pause federal grants while the Trump administration reviews programs funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. This pause does not currently affect the delivery of the Mission Bay Ferry Landing. However, Port staff are continuing to monitor how the transition of the federal administration may impact this project and other federally funded Port projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Port staff requests that the Port Commission approve the attached resolution authorizing staff to accept and expend \$28,000,000 in grant funds from the Water Emergency Transit Agency (WETA) subject to Board of Supervisors approval, approve the Grant Agreement; and upon Board of Supervisors' approval, authorize the Executive Director to execute and implement the Grant Agreement with WETA.

Prepared by: Boris Delepine
Government Affairs Manager

For: Meghan Wallace
Acting Deputy Director
Finance and Administration

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-15

WHEREAS, Charter Section B3.581 empowers the Port Commission with the authority and duty to use, conduct, operate, maintain, manage, regulate, and control the lands within Port jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, The Port and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transit Agency ("WETA") are pursuing development of the Mission Bay Ferry Landing to create a southern hub for ferry service into San Francisco that will address regional transportation demand for current and future development around Mission Bay and the Central Waterfront; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Bay Ferry Landing will be located on Port property at the foot of 16th Street and Terry Francois Boulevard adjacent to Chase Arena; and

WHEREAS, Once the project is completed, the Port will lease the facility, land and water areas to WETA for facility operations and maintenance in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the Port Commission through Resolution No. 16-46; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Bay Ferry Landing will increase ferry ridership by providing reliable, timely, and direct transit between downtown San Francisco, and the major employment, housing, and entertainment venues in Mission Bay; and

WHEREAS, WETA is financially supporting the Port by providing a one-time construction grant of \$28,000,000 to help complete the Mission Bay Ferry Landing; and

WHEREAS, WETA's grant to the Port will provide crucial funding that leverages more than \$75.8 million from other local, state, and federal sources, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Transportation Agency Rapid Electric Emission-Free Ferry funding, City and County of San Francisco Capital Funds, Regional Measure 3, CalSTA Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program, and San Francisco Sales Tax to deliver the Mission Bay Ferry Landing Project; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Port Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a Grant Agreement with WETA to accept and expend \$28,000,000 in funding for the project delivery of the Mission Bay Ferry Landing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Port Commission authorizes the Executive Director to seek Board of Supervisor's authorization to accept and expend the grant funds.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Port Commission at its meeting of March 11, 2025.

Secretary