



May 21, 2024

Administrator Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am writing on behalf of San Francisco Transit Riders to support the Port of San Francisco and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority's (WETA) joint application requesting \$55 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Grant program for the San Francisco Zero Emission Ferry Project: Investing in Equitable, Healthy, and Connected Bay Area Communities.

San Francisco Transit Riders is San Francisco's member-supported, grassroots advocacy organization for excellent, affordable, and growing public transit. We believe that empowering everyday transit riders to speak up for rider-first policies will bring us the world-class transit system we need for a livable, sustainable, and accessible San Francisco.

The San Francisco Zero Emission Ferry Project will transition ferry operations along the San Francisco waterfront to zero-emissions, removing 455,000 metric tons of CO₂ greenhouse gasses and enhancing air quality at the Port of San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area airshed while connecting disadvantaged communities with high paying employment centers.

San Francisco Bay Ferry, the service operated by WETA, carried 2.2 million passengers in 2023 on the nation's cleanest high-speed, high-capacity ferry fleet. Thirteen of the agency's seventeen vessels now meet U.S. EPA Tier 4 emission standards and the agency has committed to convert more than 50% of the vessel fleet to zero emissions by 2035. In 2023, the agency completed its Blueprint for Zero Emission Vessel Transition, funded through a California Energy Commission grant, to inform development of a plan to transition the fleet to zero-emission vessels.

Having secured \$127 million to deliver electric vessels and waterside charging infrastructure, final funding is required to deliver a series of projects that will complete the establishment of the first zero emissions fast ferry network in the country, connecting the two visitor and employment centers of Downtown San Francisco and Mission Bay with the new emerging waterfront developments on Treasure Island, including final funding for 1) electrification infrastructure at the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal, 2) construction of a 400-passenger zero emission vessel, 3) establishment of a Mission Bay Ferry Terminal, and 4) financial support of a regional maritime workforce development program to train over 150 participants ages 18-24 from disadvantaged and low-income communities in the greater San Francisco Bay Area and the re-entry population.



This new zero emission network will connect multiple disadvantaged communities served by SF Bay Ferry, including Oakland, Richmond, Vallejo and Alameda with the high paying financial and biotech employment centers in Downtown San Francisco and Mission Bay. These projects will accelerate a new standard for clean ferries in the nation and serve as a training platform for the Bay Area's maritime workforce development program.

San Francisco Transit Riders offers its full support for this exciting project. We are confident that this project will deliver significant environmental, social, and economic benefits to the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we sincerely appreciate your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dylan Fabris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Dylan Fabris
Community & Policy Manager
San Francisco Transit Riders