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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **VALLEJO BAYLINK FERRY COMES TO THE RESCUE OF TUG, OIL BARGE**

VALLEJO – A disabled tug boat and the petroleum barge it was pulling were saved from crashing on the rocky shores of San Francisco Bay on Tuesday by a Vallejo Baylink Ferry on a regular run to San Francisco.

The boat M/V Vallejo, under the direction of Captain Thomas Lee, had just departed Vallejo on the 6 a.m. run heading for San Francisco with 169 passengers aboard when Lee received a call on his radio for assistance.

A tugboat pulling a petroleum barge had lost its main engine, was unable to restart and, as a result, was drifting toward with the tide at a rate that would “put him on the rocks” if help did not arrive soon.

“I was the only vessel in the area,” Lee said in a report to Blue & Gold Fleet, which operates the Vallejo Baylink Ferry. “I called (the captain of the other ship) to ask how I could be of help. (He) asked me if I could put a line on the bow of his barge and tow him away from the rocks until another tug could assist.”

Lee notified the passengers as well as his dispatcher of his intention to help. He then maneuvered the Vallejo into position, at which time Bud Erwin and Jim Eversole, crewmembers on the Vallejo, attached lines from the tugboat onto the Vallejo. Lee then moved the boat and the barge into what he thought was a safe position between Mare Island Straits and Wickland Oil Company.

Unfortunately, another boat was bearing down on the Vallejo and after a quick conversation with its captain, Lee moved the Vallejo – and its two new passengers – to the north, keeping all the vessels out of harm’s way.

(MORE)

At approximately 6:50 a.m. another tugboat arrived, relieving the Vallejo of its extra duty and taking the disabled tug and the petroleum barge to Rodeo. The Vallejo then continued its trip to San Francisco, arriving at approximately 7:38 a.m.

“I made announcements to the passengers explaining assist responsibilities of a vessel and that possibly we had helped protect San Francisco Bay from a major oil spill, or possibly prevented the barge from having a collision with the Carquinez Bridge,” Lee wrote in his report.