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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW VALLEJO FERRY FACILITY TO BE BUILT
ON MARE ISLAND WATERFRONT**

\$22-million ferry facility, increased public access to waterfront and expanded ferry service part of deal between WETA, Lennar Mare Island and the City of Vallejo

(MARE ISLAND, CA – May 1, 2013) – A landmark \$22-million maintenance, administration, and passenger facility for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority’s (WETA) Vallejo service is set to be built by 2015, following an agreement announced today by the City of Vallejo, WETA and developer Lennar Mare Island (LMI). The facility, which is scheduled for construction beginning later this year, will also include maintenance, fueling and berthing facilities, administrative offices, improvements to the waterfront and enhanced public access.

Once the new facility is completed, WETA will offer ferry service from Mare Island to the existing Vallejo Terminal and beyond, allowing Mare Island residents, employees and Touro University students to embark on and disembark from the Vallejo Ferry on the Mare Island side.

“We want to thank WETA for making this significant investment in Mare Island and Vallejo, and LMI for their tireless efforts working with all parties to make this deal happen,” said Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis. “The new facility will create jobs, and improve public access and use of Mare

(More)

Island waterfront. It will also give Mare Island residents and workers a new transportation option.”

The project will retain the 42 full-time jobs that currently exist at the site, and the transaction provides WETA with the opportunity to expand its Mare Island operations as Bay Area ferry service continues to grow.

“The new facility reflects our commitment to our loyal North Bay passengers and will serve to improve upon our excellent service to the region,” said Nina Rannells, Executive Director of WETA.

The project will include the construction of five berths to facilitate daily operations, maintenance, repairs and future passenger access. As part of the agreement, LMI will continue its investment in improvements to the waterfront area by enhancing pedestrian access, including the installation of benches, lights, waste receptacles and signage. A parking lot that will accommodate both the Ferry’s needs and the surrounding businesses will be provided as well.

“LMI and the community collaborated on a long term vision for ferry service to Mare Island beginning in 1998 and this agreement reflects LMI’s, and the City of Vallejo’s, enduring commitment to implementing the community’s vision for Mare Island,” said LMI spokesperson Jason Keadjian.

The new ferry facility will transform historic Building 165, providing space for maintenance shops and offices. The facility will also house a more efficient fueling system, allowing for 48,000 gallons of diesel fuel storage and negating the need for costly daily deliveries. Project funding includes State Transportation Improvement Program funds previously secured by the City of Vallejo through the Solano Transportation Authority and State Proposition 1B funds available to WETA. System maintenance and passenger service operations are anticipated to begin at the new facility in 2015.

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