



July 27, 2007

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON
A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A ROUND-TRIP SPECIAL EVENT
FERRY FARE FOR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN THE
LARKSPUR FERRY TERMINAL AND THE SAUSALITO FERRY LANDING**

Proposed New Special Event Ferry Fare

Staff has been contacted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) regarding the scheduled closure of the Bay Bridge over the 2007 Labor Day weekend. MTC is preparing a traffic mitigation program for the expected diversion of traffic from that busy corridor to other bridges, including the Richmond-San Rafael and Golden Gate bridges. Last year, the Bay Bridge was closed over Labor Day weekend in one direction only. Traffic congestion was evident on the Golden Gate Bridge. This year, both directions of the Bay Bridge will be closed. Coinciding with this event is the annual Sausalito Arts Festival. Staff has been contacted by representatives of the Arts Festival and the City of Sausalito regarding additional ferry services to alleviate traffic congestion from the festival. In combination, the Bay Bridge closure and the Arts Festival are likely to cause severe traffic congestion on the Golden Gate Bridge and on Highway 101 between the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and San Francisco.

In consultation with MTC and Sausalito, District staff has developed a proposal to operate additional Golden Gate Transit bus and Golden Gate Ferry services, including an additional ferry operating between Larkspur Ferry Terminal (LFT) and San Francisco Ferry Terminal (SFFT) via Sausalito ferry landing. Currently on weekends and holidays, Sausalito ferry operates one vessel providing 13 crossings, about every 90 minutes, between 10:40 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Staff proposes adding one more ferry vessel operating an extended service from SFFT to Sausalito and to LFT and back. In this manner, a new special event service would be created between LFT and Sausalito for the Sausalito Arts Festival. Estimated cost of the added service between Larkspur, Sausalito and San Francisco is \$13,994 for the three days.

Existing ferry fares of \$7.10 for adults and \$3.55 for youth/seniors/disabled will be charged for the Sausalito-to-San Francisco portion of the service. However, a special event fare must be established for the new special event service between Larkspur and Sausalito. Consistent with Board policy for special events services, staff proposes a round-trip fare of \$7.00, no discounts, to be collected at LFT, to fully cover the cost of this special event service. In addition to fare revenues, District staff has received a commitment from Sausalito Arts Festival to fund up to \$5,000 of the remaining cost of this special event service.

In accordance with the Rules of the Board, this public hearing is being conducted on the proposed round-trip special event fare of \$7.00. Following consideration of all public comments submitted, and assuming that no significant issues are raised that require additional staff analysis, Board action to adopt the proposed fare and authorize the Labor Day weekend special event ferry service would be requested at the July 27 Board meeting immediately following this public hearing.