



Agenda Item No. (7)

To: Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole  
Meeting of October 24, 2024

From: Michael S. Hoffman, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division  
Joseph M. Wire, Auditor-Controller  
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROJECT, PROJECT # 2545,  
RAMP INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, IN THE FISCAL  
YEAR 24/25 FERRY DIVISION CAPITAL BUDGET**

### **Recommendation**

The Finance-Auditing Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve establishing a new Ferry Division Capital Project, Project # 2545, *Ramp Infrastructure Capital Improvements*, in the Fiscal Year 24/25 Ferry Division Capital budget in the amount of \$584,610.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its October 25, 2024, meeting for appropriate action.

### **Summary**

The Ferry Division has observed a steady rebound in ridership since the temporary suspension of Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) bus and ferry services in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Introduction of new ferry services to Angel Island and maximization of service on the Larkspur to San Francisco route, with two vessels currently operating 38 of the allowed 42 revenue trips per day, have contributed to the recovery in ridership. Additionally, there has been a strong resurgence in recreational travel, particularly on the Sausalito and Tiburon routes.

While operating these services, Ferry Division staff have identified key areas requiring infrastructure improvements to ensure continued service reliability and enhance the safety of mooring operations. This proposed project will implement necessary ramp infrastructure improvements at Angel Island, Tiburon, Larkspur, and Sausalito.

### ***Angel Island***

The existing ramp infrastructure at Angel Island is incompatible with the District's four catamaran vessels due to differences in boarding door locations and embarkation deck heights between the Spaulding-class and catamaran vessels. This project will improve the ramps to accommodate the *M.V. Del Norte* and *M.V. Mendocino* catamarans and ensure compatibility with the future Liwa-class vessels, which are currently under design. These modifications to ramp infrastructure will

improve operational flexibility by allowing two additional vessels to moor at Angel Island, thereby mitigating potential service disruptions in an area where alternative transportation options the District could offer, such as a bus bridge, are not possible. As the only ferry operator servicing Angel Island seven days a week, the District plays a critical role in maintaining consistent public access to this state park resource.

### ***Tiburon***

The District uses a float in Tiburon to provide service on the San Francisco to Tiburon route. In January of 2022, the District purchased this float from Blue & Gold Fleet, which granted the District exclusive landing rights and the ability to make improvements to enhance safe mooring operations at the location.

The current mooring plan in Tiburon positions the bow of Spaulding vessels close to the shoreline's rock revetment, as shown in Attachment A. This project will modify the ramp platform on the float to allow vessels to moor farther from the shoreline, thereby improving the safety of the mooring process.

### ***Larkspur***

The Larkspur Ferry Terminal consists of four berths, three of which are used for passenger service, with the fourth (Berth 4) reserved for out-of-service vessels and maintenance. Access to Berth 4 is provided by the ramp infrastructure on Berth 3, which has experienced significant wear and tear due to environmental conditions and the frequent movement of maintenance carts carrying heavy materials such as oil drums and engine coolant. This project will replace the decking and reinforce the ramp structure, ensuring that Berth 4 can continue to serve its crucial role in supporting maintenance operations and fleet availability.

### ***Sausalito***

The Sausalito float includes multiple ramp systems designed to accommodate both Spaulding-class vessels and the *M.V. Del Norte* and *M.V. Mendocino* catamarans. Spaulding-class vessels utilize a rolling ramp system, which is manually positioned by deckhands and attached to the vessel's brow. This system, which includes springs and counterweights, experiences continual wear and tear due to frequent use. This proposed project will fund the procurement of two replacement ramps for the north and south berths on the Sausalito float.

Staff recommends the Board approve the establishment of Project #2545, *Ramp Infrastructure Capital Improvements*, as a new Ferry Division capital project with a budget amount of \$584,610. This project will address critical infrastructure improvement needs at Angel Island, Tiburon, Larkspur and Sausalito, ensuring that the Ferry Division can continue to provide reliable and safe service across its routes.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The anticipated cost for Project #2545, *Ramp Infrastructure Capital Improvements*, is \$584,610. This project will be fully funded by District funds.

Attachment: Spaulding in Tiburon Bow Looking Down and Spaulding in Tiburon Port Side Profile