



# San Francisco Bay Ferry

Pier 9, Suite 111  
The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94111

March 28, 2025

Mr. Jan Sramek  
Founder & CEO  
California Forever  
Solano County

Dear Mr. Sramek,

San Francisco Bay Ferry is pleased to support California Forever's plans to develop a major shipbuilding facility on the waterfront in Solano County. There is a clear need for more shipbuilding capacity to support SF Bay Ferry's priorities, and locating the facility where it is proposed will offer expanded benefits to the region. The magnitude and scope of the facility offers unique potential for meeting the growing demand for new vessels to support the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and commercial shipbuilding throughout the country. Meeting those demands here will create a new marine manufacturing focused industry and will deliver the associated economic development, job growth, and workforce development benefits that our region desperately needs.

I appreciated the opportunity to tour the site and the discussion with your team about how the proposal can benefit SF Bay Ferry's vision for expanded ferry service throughout the region.

SF Bay Ferry has recently awarded contracts to procure what will be the country's first zero-emission high-speed ferry vessels. These five vessels, and the associated charging infrastructure and terminal facilities, represent over \$250 million in investment to complete the initial phases of the agency's larger Rapid Electric Emission-free Ferry (REEF) Program. Overall, the REEF Program includes the expansion of the SF Bay Ferry fleet from 18 vessels to more than 35 vessels over the next decade.



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There are many challenges associated with implementing this program, including a critical shortage of shipyard capacity in the Bay Area, and nationwide. This constraint has led to decreased competition, increased costs, and unacceptable delays for both new ferry procurement and for critical vessel repair and maintenance needs.

A shortage of shipyard capacity in the Bay Area and California has made it necessary to invest our system's revenues out of state, with limited opportunity for reinvestment of those funds in the regional economy. A major new Bay Area shipbuilding facility would help maximize the retention and reinvestment of those revenues locally, creating jobs, and expanding economic opportunity in the process.

Building ferries in the Bay Area will also help ensure that development of state-of-the-art maritime technologies is centered in a region already recognized as the global epicenter of innovation. These technologies are evolving rapidly in other parts of the world.

Scandinavia's embrace of zero-emission vessels has spurred an entire industry of specialized companies that market their products to vessel designers and operators around the globe. The Bay Area already offers access to capital, a technology-focused workforce, unrivaled educational institutions, and the entrepreneurial spirit necessary to create a dynamic ecosystem of maritime innovators. The addition of an industry-leading shipyard will catalyze that vision and realization of the benefits that come with it.

Finally, I also understand that your organization may be interested in the operation of public, scheduled ferry service to the shipyard site to facilitate easy access to jobs for shipyard workers. SF Bay Ferry has completed a 2050 Service Vision, which is part of a larger 2050 Business Plan. That document includes parameters and conditions that guide the development of expansion services. Key among them is the identification of new funding to support the capital and operating investments that will allow the service to happen. Planning and implementation of services to Treasure Island and Richmond provide instructive examples of how these concepts have been applied to recent service expansions. At your convenience, we would be happy to discuss how these concepts could apply to new service to the shipyard site in more detail.



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We look forward to continuing the discussion about how this proposal can be implemented to best meet San Francisco Bay Ferry's needs and learning more about what we can do to help make it a reality.

Sincerely,

Seamus Murphy

Cc: SF Bay Ferry Board of Directors