



KATRINA FOLEY

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FIFTH DISTRICT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
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October 24, 2023

Earl Landberg
Solicitation Lead
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Support for Balboa Island Ferry, Newport Beach, CA - California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects Grant Application

Dear Mr. Landberg:

I write to support the City of Newport Beach's grant application that will transition the Balboa Island Ferry to zero emission operation. The Balboa Island Ferry was founded more than 100 years ago to reduce vehicle and passenger travel time and distance. This proposal, which will bring the ferry to a zero-emission standard, will preserve the legacy of emission reduction fostered by the Balboa Island Ferry.

The Balboa Island Ferry provides critical transportation infrastructure for our region and reduces vehicle miles traveled and carbon emissions. The Balboa Island Ferry connects pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers with affordable and accessible transportation to and from Balboa Island. A journey by car to Balboa Island requires a 12-mile round trip around Newport Bay and a 15-to-20-minute journey by car. The Balboa Island Ferry fleet offers approximately 0.6 miles of travel, lasting roughly five minutes. Annually, the fleet transports about 350,000 vehicles and 1.6 million passengers, saving approximately 4.2 million vehicle miles traveled and encouraging cleaner first and last-mile transportation options.

I am committed to working with Balboa Ferry to comply with zero emission standards established by California Air Resources Board amendments to the Commercial Harbor Craft regulations. The current estimate to renovate the Balboa Island Ferry fleet is approximately \$12 million, with a CA Public Utility Commission restricted rate of \$1.50 per ride, the Ferry is unable to raise the capital for the renovations through ticket sales.

My office convened a working group of local officials, including State Assemblywoman Dianne Dixon of the 72nd Assembly District, the Balboa Island

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Improvement Association, the City of Newport Beach, and local community leaders to search for solutions and identify funding to save the Ferry. We feel this grant proposal meets CARBs goals of supporting "zero-emission off-road equipment and vessel projects as well as Green Zones."

For these reasons, I strongly support the City's application to fund the Balboa Island Ferry's transition to zero-emission operation. The Balboa Island Ferry is more than a historic landmark, it is a critical piece of transportation infrastructure that reduces car trips and provides low income and disadvantaged communities an opportunity to enjoy the marine and coastal environment at a very reasonable cost.

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Napuri, my Deputy Chief of Staff, at (714) 834-3550 or Alyssa.Napuri@ocgov.com. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Katrina Foley

Orange County Supervisor, Fifth District

Cc: Balboa Island Ferry Working Group
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
Visit Newport Beach