



Agenda Item No. (6)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of October 26, 2023

From: Paolo Cosulich-Schwartz, Director of Public Affairs
Michael S. Hoffman, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO THE NAMING OF A NEW FERRY VESSEL**

Recommendation

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve actions relative to the naming of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's new ferry vessel as follows:

1. Rescind Resolution No. 2023-031, which approved the selection of *Motor Vessel (M.V.) Olompali* for the new vessel and authorized the official filing of the name with the United States Coast Guard; and,
2. Approve naming the new ferry vessel the *M.V. Liwa* and authorize staff to file the name with the United States Coast Guard.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its October 27, 2023, meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) operates a fleet of seven (7) ferry vessels. The District is currently in the design phase of a new ferry vessel. As part of the design process, this vessel must be named before submitting plans and drawings to the United States Coast Guard for required approvals.

During the April 28, 2023, meeting, the District's Board of Directors (Board) considered several new ferry names proposed by staff and unanimously selected the name *M.V. Olompali* for the District's new ferry vessel. The name Olompali is of Coast Miwok origin, and the use of the selected ferry name was conditioned upon the approval of representatives of the Coast Miwok.

Following the Board's action in April, staff reached out to the Federated Tribes of the Graton Rancheria (Graton Rancheria) to obtain approval for use of the Olompali name. Graton Rancheria

is a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups recognized as a tribe by the United States Congress.

In May 2023, District staff presented the proposed vessel name to Graton Rancheria staff, who presented the proposal to their Tribal Council. After review of the proposed name, Graton Rancheria staff informed the District that the *M.V. Olompali* did not receive approval from the Tribal Council and that their typical process for recommending names to outside organizations includes a multi-month research and development process led by the Graton Rancheria Tribal Heritage and Preservation team.

District staff remained engaged over the last several months with the Tribal Heritage and Preservation team to develop a new naming recommendation. On September 27, 2023, District staff were informed that the Tribal Heritage and Preservation team had developed a proposed vessel name vetted and approved by the Graton Rancheria Tribal Council.

District staff recommends the Board approve the selection of *M.V. Liwa* (pronounced “lee-wa”), which means “water” in Coast Miwok, for the District’s new ferry vessel, and authorize the official filing of the name with the United States Coast Guard.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.