

December 15, 2023



**MINUTES OF THE**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

These minutes are supplemented by the audio recording that is posted online at:  
<https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents>.

Honorable Board of Directors  
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway  
and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

A meeting of the Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee (Committee)/Committee of the Whole of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) met in regular session in the Board Room, Administration Building, Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco, CA, on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., with Chair Cochran presiding. A remote audio option for public participation was available.

- (1) **Call to Order:** 9:00 a.m.
- (2) **Roll Call:** Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong.

**Committee Members Present (7):** Chair Cochran; Vice Chair Snyder; Directors Garbarino, Giudice, Hill and Rodoni; President Thériault.

**Committee Members Absent (1):** Director Stefani.

**Other Directors Present (5):** Directors Grosboll, Hernández, Moulton-Peters, Pahre and Rabbitt.

**Committee of the Whole Members Present (12):** Directors Garbarino, Giudice, Grosboll, Hernández, Moulton-Peters, Pahre, Rabbitt, Rodoni, and Snyder; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Thériault.

**Committee of the Whole Members Absent (7):** Directors Conroy, Dorsey, Engardio, Mastin, Safaí, Stefani, and Thier

**Staff Present:** General Manager Denis Mulligan; Auditor-Controller Joseph Wire; District Engineer Ewa Bauer-Furbush; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division David Rivera; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division Michael Hoffman; Deputy General

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Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Executive Administrator to the General Manager Justine Bock; Senior Board Analyst Elizabeth Eells.

A copy of the report is available on the District's web site at <https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents> or upon request from the Office of the District Secretary.

**(3) State Update from the District's Legislative Advocates, Platinum Advisors, LLC [00:50 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Beau Biller of Platinum Advisors, LLC presented the State Update. He highlighted some of the key legislative leadership changes including some in the Bay Area delegation. He spoke about Senate Bill (SB) 125, the Transit Transformation Task Force and the Task Force's role to develop policy recommendations about transit and publish a report.

He overviewed some bills from the 2023 session including SB 286 and Assembly Bill 1373. He spoke about the State's latest budget restrictions and its efforts to rein in spending.

Mr. Mulligan added to his report. He expressed appreciation for Platinum Advisors' representatives and their work on the District's behalf. He spoke about how opportunities in which District staff can discuss priorities with the Bay Area delegation. He also spoke about incoming Chair Assemblymember Lori Wilson, her advocacy for ferry and transportation, and her focus on equity.

**[13:55 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Director Snyder commented about the offshore wind development, which could lead to increased development of port infrastructure.

Director Hill inquired about the potential effect of the Native Americans on the offshore wind farms.

Chair Cochran inquired about the potential effect of the declining gas tax revenues on transit.

Director Snyder inquired about the State's Rainy Day Fund.

Mr. Biller and Mr. Mulligan responded to the Directors' inquiries. Mr. Mulligan commented that the offshore wind farms are built to help meet the State's energy requirements. Mr. Biller spoke about laws related to environmental considerations of large energy generation projects. He acknowledged that California Native Americans are a sizable and key stakeholder group. He said that the declining gas tax revenues will be a long-term policy issue.

**(4) Approve the Implementation of the District's 2024 Legislative Platform [20:00 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

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General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report. He expressed appreciation for federal funding and money from SB 125 through Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). He highlighted some key legislative priorities including obtaining funding for the Seismic Retrofit project and converting the Larkspur ferry channel into a federal channel. He reviewed legislation staff is monitoring and spoke about working with other agencies on shared goals.

**[25:42 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Director Snyder inquired about the frequency of dredging the Larkspur ferry channel and the District's typical funding sources for the effort.

Director Garbarino expressed appreciation for the legislative platform.

Director Rabbitt commented about other options for decreasing the cost of the dredging work.

Director Snyder commented about the dredging contractors in the area. He inquired about a possible MTC regional measure for transportation.

Director Rabbitt stated that MTC has done some polling about a possible MTC regional transportation measure and the possibility of revisioning transit in the Bay Area.

Director Snyder inquired about the necessity of passing Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval (ACA-1) to fund transportation.

Director Moulton-Peters provided additional information about the MTC polling regarding a possible regional transportation measure.

Directors Rabbitt and Garbarino commented about the generational and cyclical changes that could possibly affect voter sentiments.

Mr. Mulligan responded to the Directors' inquiries. He thanked Ms. Ko-Wong for her contribution to the District's efforts on legislative matters. He spoke about the challenges of dredging. He outlined ACA-1, and different ways to get measures on the ballot that would decrease the amount of votes required. He reviewed possible funding sources and spoke about people's concern about the tax benefitting their community.

**(a) Action by the Committee**

Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by **Directors SNYDER/GIUDICE** to forward the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration:

**RECOMMENDATION**

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The Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors approve the implementation of the 2024 Legislative Platform as attached to this report.

**Action by the Board at its meeting of December 15, 2023 – Resolution**

**AYES (12):** Directors Garbarino, Giudice, Grosboll, Hernández, Moulton-Peters, Pahre, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Thériault.  
**NOES (0):** None.  
**ABSENT (7):** Directors Conroy, Dorsey, Engardio, Mastin, Safaí, Stefani and Thier.

**(5) Public Comment**

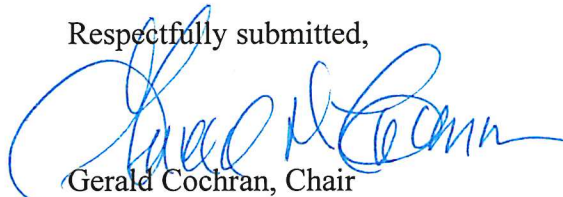
There was no Public Comment.

Before the meeting adjourned, Mr. Biller stated that the State has about \$26 billion in its Rainy Day Fund.

**(6) Adjournment [40:00 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

All business having been concluded, **Directors HERNANDEZ/RABBITT** moved and seconded that the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Cochran, Chair

Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee

GC:AMK:EIE:tnm