

San Pedro – Long Beach Water Taxi Feasibility Study

Summary of External Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

For the purposes of this feasibility study, Metro focused on coordination and input from a targeted group of key stakeholders, including the following.

- City of Long Beach: The City will be hosting 18 sporting events during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including rowing, sailing and open water swimming along Belmont Shore. Metro staff met with representatives from the City, including staff from the office of the City Manager, Government Affairs, and Special Events to garner feedback and input on the project.

Long Beach Transit (LBT): LBT, with operations contracted to a private operator (currently Catalina Express), provides water taxi services to the Long Beach waterfront between Alamitos Bay Landing, the Queen Mary, and Shoreline Village in Downtown Long Beach. LBT's existing water taxi services are operated seasonally in the summer months (April to September) and are planned for operation during the 2028 Games. LBT currently is conducting an evaluation of transit services for the 2028 Games, including enhancements to bus and ferry services and strategies for transitioning to zero emission propulsion systems.

Metro staff briefed the LBT CEO on two occasions and met several times with LBT's senior leadership team, who have been partners in providing access to operating costs and service planning data for existing AquaLink and AquaBus services, and guidance on operations and unique conditions of Long Beach's service areas.

- San Pedro Bay Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles: The harbor serves as a major American gateway for international trade and shipping, with 47 operating cargo terminals across the two ports. The project team met with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the two major seaports that form the San Pedro Bay Port Complex, to provide information on the study and gather feedback.

In addition to cargo shipping uses, San Pedro Bay serves various other maritime uses that are anticipated to contribute to vessel traffic during the 2028 Games, including ancillary cargo shipping services like tugboats, pilot services, oil crew and equipment transport; and major cruise ships and terminals, chartered operators and recreational activities like sailing, fishing and whale watching; and private boats.

- Charter Service Operators: Meetings were conducted with private charter operators, including Harbor Breeze and Catalina Express, to understand their service models, operating parameters, fleet capacity, docking and fueling infrastructure, and anticipated plans for service during the 2028 Summer Games.

Additionally, operators provided feedback on operating considerations for passenger vessels in the San Pedro Bay and potential conditions during the 2028 Summer Games.

- Labor Unions: The project team invited local unions representing maritime workers, transportation operators, and dock personnel to two separate stakeholder engagement meetings. Those invited included the LA/OC Building Trades Councils, ILWU Local 13, ILWU 94, ILWU 63 and SEIU 721; one union representative attended the discussion.

Feedback received from labor was useful for evaluating opportunities and constraints for the water taxi service, particularly with the expected closure of the Vincent Thomas Bridge, workforce access to the ports, and potential community responses.

- LA 28: Metro coordinated with LA 28 to receive periodic updates as details continue to emerge on event locations, security perimeters, spectator and staging areas, hospitality sites, event schedules, and event durations. As information continues to evolve, the study's outline of opportunities and constraints is expected to continue to inform decision-making about the potential service.