



Daily Ferry Service To Sf Launches For First Time In 61 Years

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RICHMOND (BCN)

State lawmakers and local leaders celebrated the launch of regular daily ferry service from the Port of Richmond into San Francisco for the first time since the late 1950s Thursday.

The first boat into the city left at 6:10 a.m. but this afternoon hundreds of commuters and transit enthusiasts gathered in the Craneway Pavilion, which is adjacent to the docks, for a public address and a short tour around the harbor on a ferry boat.

"This is truly a great day for Richmond and also the San Francisco Bay Area, because today, after a 61-year absence regular sustainable ferry service from Richmond is back," Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia said to a crowd of at least 500 people.

Gioia called it the best commute in the Bay Area, pledged to work on expanding night and weekend service as well as find funding to bring a zero-emission ferry boat that is currently under construction to Richmond.

Richmond Mayor Tom Butt addressed the crowd as well, pointing out the presence of Betty Reid Soskin, one of the oldest National Park Service rangers, currently serving at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park, and other "Rosies" who worked on manufacturing lines to support the war effort in the 1940s.

Soskin raised her hand in acknowledgement. She was named one of Glamour Magazine's 2018 Women of the Year in November.

Newly-elected Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks also addressed the crowd, calling this new ferry route proof that big things can still be accomplished in California when stakeholders cooperate and emphasizing the positive impacts ferry service will have on commuters and the environment.

Wicks recounted a recent rush-hour commute from South Berkeley to Hercules, a roughly 15-mile trip, that took 90 minutes on Interstate Highway 80. By comparison, the ferry ride from Richmond into San Francisco takes just 35 minutes.

"We know that when people are out on the water, they're not on I-80," Wicks said.

State Sen. Nancy Skinner, representing California's Ninth District, and Jody Breckenridge from the Water Emergency Transportation Authority also addressed the audience.

After the conclusion of the speaking program, hundreds of people streamed out of the Craneway Pavilion, waiting in line for their turn to board the ferry.

The fare from Richmond to San Francisco is \$9 or \$6.75 with a Clipper Card. Boats are making round-trips six times per day, seven days a week. For more information about the schedule go to <https://sanfranciscobayferry.com/richmond>.