

State of California

Board of Pilot Commissioners

for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Pilot Commissioners held on June 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in meetings of the Board, either in person or via telephone.

Location:

Board of Pilot Commissioners
660 Davis Street
San Francisco, California 94111

To participate via telephone please use:

888-808-6929

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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA SINCE 1850



**Board of Pilot Commissioners (Board or BOPC)
for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun
Board Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**

Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present (in person and by phone)

Captain William Benedict, Pilot Member (by phone)
Captain Robert Carr, Pilot Member
Christine Casey, Designee for the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) (by phone)
Joanne Hayes-White, Vice President, Public Member
Captain Lynn Korwatch, Dry Cargo Industry Member
Sam Rodriguez, Public Member
Karen Tynan, President, Public Member

Board Members Absent

Captain Roy Mathur, Wet Cargo Industry Member

Board Staff Present (in person and by phone)

Allen Garfinkle, Executive Director
Matthew Millspaugh, Assistant Director
Alethea Wong, Licensing and Training Programs Manager
Greg Shepherd, Records Management and Program Support Coordinator
Mari Ayala, Board Administrative Coordinator
Nina Lincoff, Board Counsel
Roma Cristia-Plant, Consultant to the Board (by phone)

Identified Public Present (in person and by phone)

Captain John Carlier, San Francisco Bar Pilots (SFBP) President and Port Agent
Jen Cohen, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA)
Captain Anne McIntyre, SFBP Business Director (by phone)
Captain Paul Ruff, SFBP
Captain Daniel Thinger and family, BOPC Trainee
Captain Lillian Gallo, SFBP
Captain Christian Barron, SFBP
Captain Carl Johnson, BOPC Trainee
Captain Brendan Roberts, BOPC Trainee

OPEN MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (President Tynan)

President Tynan called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Board Administrative Coordinator Ayala called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Public comments on matters on the agenda or not on the agenda.

Ms. Cristia-Plant noted that she was participating by phone.

3. Review and approval of Board meeting minutes. (President Tynan)

Possible Board action to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on May 28, 2026.

Commissioner Carr stated that he and Captain McIntyre submitted minor edits presented to the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Korwatch moved to approve the draft May 28, 2026, Board meeting minutes with the minor edits. Commissioner Hayes-White seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Benedict, Carr, Hayes-White, Korwatch, Rodriguez, and Tynan.

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

4. President Announcements and Activities. (President Tynan)

President Tynan stated that she, Commissioner Carr, and Captain Carlier met as the Pilot Continuing Education Committee on June 23, 2026. The Committee established action items and will continue working on them with Board Counsel.

5. Commissioner Announcements and Activities. (Board Members)

Commissioner Carr stated that, in the week prior to the Board meeting, he and other subject matter experts met with Dainis & Company (Dainis) toward continued development of the simulation portion of the Board's Pilot Trainee Training exam. He stated they made significant progress on the exam development, and he was pleased with Dainis' use of Wärtsilä software to create the simulation environment for the exam.

Commissioner Hayes-White acknowledged Commissioners Carr and Korwatch for their contributions to the Selection Appeal Committee (Committee), noting that during the Committee meeting on June 3, 2026, Commissioner Carr accepted the Chair position and implemented an efficient review of the 12 appeals before the Commission.

6. Directors' Report. (Executive Director Garfinkle)

Summary of the report presented by Executive Director Garfinkle, including activities and correspondence since the last Board meeting, pilot licensing matters, Board surcharge reporting, and pension fiduciary matters. A copy of the full report, including all supporting documents referenced herein, is available for review at the Board office upon request.

A) Correspondence and activities since the Board meeting held on May 28, 2026.

Since the Board meeting of May 28, 2026, the following notable activities and correspondence have occurred:

- **Information Technology (IT) Project Media Inquiry:**
The Board's IT project received media attention from Industry Insider – California, a publication covering state and local government IT work. Board staff collaborated on the preparation of materials for an article, a copy of which has been included in the Board meeting documents.
- **Harbor Safety Committee:**
Executive Director Garfinkle attended the June 11, 2026, Harbor Safety Committee meeting. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) reported one minor incident involving the loss of propulsion of a tank vessel during May 2026. No incidents involving licensed pilots were reported during the period.
- **Rate Hearing Procedures Regulations:**
Final regulatory approval was received from the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on June 11, 2026, File Number 2026-0430-01SR. The regulations will become effective October 1, 2026, and have been posted to the Board's website.
- **Trainee Training Exam Dry Run:**
On June 17, 2026, Executive Director Garfinkle attended a successful dry run of the simulator portion of the Trainee Training Exam at the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Maritime Academy in Vallejo, conducted by the Dainis team with support from Board licensees. Executive Director Garfinkle expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Dainis team.
- **Gashouse Cove Fuel Dock:**
Board Staff received correspondence from SFBP addressed to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission expressing concern regarding the planned closure of the Gashouse Cove Fuel Dock.
- **IMO Gender Network Report:**
Board Staff received the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Gender Network report titled "Best Practices and Resources to Support the Recruitment and Retention of Women in the Maritime Industry," a copy of which has been included in the Board meeting documents.

B) Report on pilot licensing matters since the Board meeting held on May 28, 2026.

Since the May 28, 2026, Board meeting, the Board has issued license renewals to the following five (5) Board licensees:

Captain Carr, Captain Cvitanovic, Captain Larwoo, Captain Long, and Captain Nyborg.

C) Report on Board surcharges.

The following is a summary of surcharge billing and collection activity for May 2026:

- For May 2026, the billed amount was \$905,559. This amount was comprised of the following surcharge amounts:
 - Board Operations Surcharge: \$245,443
 - Pilot Training Surcharge: \$31,700
 - Trainee Training Surcharge: \$47,550
 - Pilot Boat Surcharge: \$580,866
- For May 2026, the cash collected and paid to the Board was \$963,843. This amount was comprised of the following surcharge amounts:
 - Board Operations Surcharge: \$265,724
 - Pilot Training Surcharge: \$34,820
 - Trainee Training Surcharge: \$51,960
 - Pilot Boat Surcharge: \$611,339
- KEY OBSERVATIONS:
 - Cash collected exceeded the billed amount by \$58,284 for May 2026.
 - The positive variance is consistent with normal billing and payment cycle activity and is largely determined by the speed with which shipping companies' accounts payable departments process invoice payments.
 - No significant collection surcharge concerns have been identified for the reporting period.

D) Report of the Pension Fiduciary.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

- Director Garfinkle noted with sadness the passing of pensioner Captain James Nolan on May 20, 2026. Pension payments for Captain Nolan will continue through June 30, 2026, after which time they will cease. The Board extends its sincere condolences to Captain Nolan's family and loved ones.
- The Board formally acknowledged the retirement notifications of Captain Raymond Ridens, Jr. and Captain David Weiss, who will begin receiving pension benefits effective July 1, 2026.

MAY 2026 PENSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Surcharge Amount Billed: \$1,360,098
- Cash Collected: \$1,429,296
- Net Surplus (Cash minus Disbursement): \$69,198
- Administrative Costs: \$3,170
- Amount Distributed to Pension Beneficiaries: \$1,356,928

- Total Monthly Target Rates: \$1,274,517
- Amount Over Target: \$85,581

ADDITIONAL PENSION DETAILS:

- Surcharge Rate for the Quarter: \$0.04683 per gross registered ton
- Rolling Look Back Period: January 2025 – December 2025
- Monthly Tonnage: 29,043,303
- Total Active Pensioners as of May 31, 2026: 85
- Most Recent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Increase: April 1, 2026

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- The pension plan collected \$69,198 more than was disbursed to pensioners in May 2026.
- The pension plan exceeded its monthly target rate by \$85,581.
- The pension plan continues to operate within established financial parameters with no significant concerns identified for the reporting period.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT INCLUDED IN BOARD MEETING MATERIALS:

- Industry Insider – California Article on the Board's IT Project
- IMO Gender Network Report – "Best Practices and Resources to Support the Recruitment and Retention of Women in the Maritime Industry"
- SFBP Cash Report – May 2026
- SFBP Billing Report – May 2026
- OAL Rate Hearing Procedures Regulations Approval Notice – File No. 2026-0430-01SR

E) Report on Legislative Activities and Contractual matters.

Summary of the report presented by Assistant Director Millspaugh, including legislative activities and contractual matters reported since the last Board meeting. A copy of the full reporting materials, including all supporting documents referenced herein, is available for review at the Board office upon request.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Assistant Director Millspaugh reported that Board staff continue to monitor Assembly Bill (AB) 2788, the transportation omnibus bill, and the Governor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026/27 Budget process. The Legislature passed a \$355 billion budget for FY 2026/27, which includes additional authority to address Board Operations and Training costs. No significant changes affecting the Board were reported during the period.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Assistant Director Millsbaugh reported on the status of the following contractual matters:

- Trainee Selection Exam Evaluator Agreements (X25-076-065, X25-076-064): Fully executed.
- Marine Investigator Services – Invitation for Bids (IFB) (Contract # 25M900009, 25M900010): One agreement with Marine Group Global Services has been fully executed; the second agreement is pending final signatures and Department of General Services' (DGS) review. In response to a question raised by Commissioner Korwatch regarding Marine Investigator Services, Executive Director Garfinkle stated that John Betz was identified as the principal investigator.
- State Controller's Office (SCO) – Expedited Warrant Services (Contract # 25M900000): Agreement fully processed and active.
- Information Technology Modernization Project (ITMP) Request for Proposal (RFP) (Contract # 25M900005): Product demonstrations from qualified bidders are scheduled for the week of July 6, 2026, with contract execution anticipated by September 2026.
- Pilot Continuing Education Contract – Artelia (Contract # To Be Determined): Board staff are working to develop a new Scope of Work (SOW) and will issue a Request for Information (RFI) to determine the most appropriate contracting method.

7. Port Agent's Report. (Port Agent Carlier)

A) Monthly report on San Francisco Bar Pilots' (SFBP) Port Agent updates, including: a list of pilots who have been Absent for Medical Reasons (AFMR) and any Minimum Rest Period (MRP) exceptions, SFBP Fatigue Risk Mitigation Report, SFBP Pilot Boat Report, and vessel moves.

Port Agent Carlier reported that as of June 25, 2026:

- **Absent for Medical Reasons (AFMR)**

The following pilots were AFMR, and their initial absence dates were:

- Captain Slack, since March 4, 2026.

- **Recommended Minimum Rest Period (MRP) Exceptions**

The SFBP continuously monitors the dispatch list for possible 12-hour MRP exceptions. If the potential exception is likely to result in a rest period of less than 10 hours, mitigating measures are employed. These measures include, but are not limited to, suspending continuing professional development protocols, cancelling scheduled meetings or Committee assignments, cancelling previously granted compensation time requests, deferring scheduled training sessions, or calling in off-watch pilots.

- **Fatigue Risk Mitigation Report**

- There are currently 53 licensees on the SFBP roster.
- Work periods over 12 hours: 15 occurrences, none exceeded 14 hours.
- Night work periods over 10 hours without rest opportunity: None.
- Night-time hours over 18 hours in a 72-hour period: None.
- Rest periods of less than 12 hours (MRPs): 4 occurrences. The minimum rest period was 10.2 hours.

B) Monthly report on SFBP ship piloting business activity.

Port Agent Carlier reported that as of June 25, 2026:

- The status of each of the SFBP-owned pilot boats was reported as:
 - Pilot Vessel (P/V) CALIFORNIA, DRAKE, GOLDEN GATE, and PITTSBURG: normal operations.
 - P/V SAN FRANCISCO: The vessel returned from the shipyard May 14, 2026; and was expected to be back in service on June 25, 2026 but there were issues involving the rescue boat that caused some delay.
- Billed vessel moves, for April 2026, were as follows:
 - Bar Crossings: 482
 - Bay Moves: 136
 - River Moves: 37
 - Total Moves: 655
- Total Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT): 29 million.
- When comparing the same period in 2025, total moves were down 3.7% and GRT was down 0.1%.

In response to Commissioner Korwatch's question regarding the discrepancy between the drop in moves and GRT potentially indicating increased ship sizes, Port Agent Carlier reported the observation that newer vessels generally carry a larger volume of shipping containers, and consequentially a higher GRT, which would account for fewer moves but higher GRT.

In response to CalSTA Ex-Officio Member Casey's question regarding the count of 53 licensees including the two pilots retiring, Port Agent Carlier stated that the 53 pilots did include the two retiring because they are not retired yet.

C) Monthly confidential written report of licensed pilots who have been Absent for Medical Reasons (AFMR).

The Board may go into closed session to discuss the confidential contents of the Port Agent's report and other relevant confidential medical information, as authorized by Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC) section 1157.1.

None.

8. Pilot Evaluation Committee. (Committee Chair Ruff)

A) Report on the Pilot Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting held on June 19, 2026.

Summary of items discussed and acted on by the Pilot Education Committee (PEC) under Agenda Item A, as presented by PEC Chair Ruff. A copy of the full report materials, including all supporting documents referenced herein, is available for review at the Board office upon request.

PEC MEETING – JUNE 19, 2026

The PEC met on Wednesday, June 19, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. The members present were Captains Wehr, Stultz, Bridgman, and Ruff. Executive Director Garfinkle joined the PEC in open session from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

During the open session, the PEC addressed the following matters:

- Minutes: The PEC approved the minutes from the prior meeting.
- Candidate and Exam Updates: The PEC discussed public and Committee Member comments on matters on the agenda and not on the agenda. Details included the following:
 - Number of Candidates: There are currently 51 candidates with one appeal outstanding.
 - Examination Schedule: The simulation test is scheduled for August 11-14, 2026, and development is nearly completed. The written exam is scheduled for July 20, 2026. PEC Chair Ruff acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Carr for his leadership on the simulation development work with the Board and Dainis, noting that Commissioner Carr's organizational skills were exactly what was needed for the effort.
- Pilot Trainee Training Program Administration: The PEC discussed administration of the Pilot Trainee Training Program and potential changes towards improvement of the program. Updates were presented regarding the trainee data tracking report's benchmarks page, including a transition from the prior alphabetical route format to a numerical format to align with the USCG Regional Exam Center (REC) bay regions for First-Class Pilotage (FCP) testing.
- Correspondence: The PEC discussed correspondence received since the last committee meeting, including communications from Commissioner Carr and Dainis regarding the finalization of the simulation test, beta testing, and the gathering of volunteers.

The open session concluded at 7:50 a.m., at which time the PEC moved into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT:

- The PEC reviewed the Pilot Trainee Training Program pilot trainee evaluation cards and monthly progress reports.
- There are currently three (3) active trainees in the program: Captains Johnson, Thinger, and Roberts. Their training time in the program ranges from ten (10) months to twenty-nine (29) months. All three trainees are currently observing, performing part handling, and handling ships under the direct supervision of a licensed San Francisco bar pilot.
- Captain Johnson: Captain Johnson has completed all testing for FCP and continues to develop and improve his pilotage skills.
- Captain Thinger: Captain Thinger has completed all testing for FCP and has successfully completed his third month in the Evaluation phase of the training program. The PEC discussed recommending that the Board issue a certificate of completion to Captain Thinger.
- Captain Roberts: Captain Roberts is continuing his FCP testing at the USCG REC and riding ships in between testing periods.
- Individual Closed Sessions: The PEC conducted individual closed sessions with each of the three active trainees, during which trainees discussed issues and difficulties encountered in their training. The Committee worked with each trainee to develop strategies to assist in advancing their respective training progress.

B) Possible PEC recommendation to place one or more Pilot Trainee Training Program trainees on probation, and/or suspend or dismiss one or more trainees from the program. Possible Board action to place one or more Pilot Trainee Training Program trainees on or off probation, and/or suspend or dismiss one or more trainees from the program.

The Board may go into closed session to discuss any confidential portions of the Committee Chair's report and/or other relevant confidential personal information of a pilot or trainee, as authorized by HNC section 1157.1.

None.

C) Possible PEC recommendation as to whether a trainee has, or trainees have, successfully completed the Pilot Trainee Training Program.

Possible Board action to award a Certificate of Completion to a trainee or trainees who has/have completed the Pilot Trainee Training Program.

PEC Chair Ruff stated that the PEC unanimously voted to recommend that the Board award a Certificate of Completion to Captain Daniel Thinger.

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that he verified that Captain Daniel Thinger has met the requirements of the Board's regulations (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 7, HNC Division 2, Article 4, sections 214 and 215), including training for more than one year and maintaining an average score of 4.0, on a scale of 5.0, as measured by the PEC, in the last three months. Executive Director Garfinkle recommended the Board grant a Certificate of Completion to Captain Thinger.

MOTION: Commissioner Benedict moved to award a Certificate of Completion to Captain Daniel Thinger as of June 25, 2026. Commissioner Korwatch seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Benedict, Carr, Hayes-White, Korwatch, Rodriguez, and Tynan.
NO: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

D) Possible recommendation from the Executive Director for the Board to issue a state pilot license to a trainee or trainees who hold a Certificate of Completion from the Pilot Trainee Training Program.

Possible Board action to accept a recommendation from the Executive Director that a trainee or trainees holding a Certificate of Completion from the Pilot Trainee Training Program be licensed as a state-licensed pilot, and issue said state license.

Executive Director Garfinkle recommended that the Board grant Captain Daniel Thinger a license.

MOTION: Commissioner Carr moved to issue a state pilot license to Captain Daniel Thinger as of June 25, 2026. Commissioner Hayes-White seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Benedict, Carr, Hayes-White, Korwatch, Rodriguez, and Tynan.
NO: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

PEC Chair Ruff stated that Captain Daniel Thinger successfully completed 591 days in the program (2,310.1 hours), 656 jobs (with an average of 33.3 jobs per month): 90 jobs were observing and 566 jobs were handling/part handling. Captain Daniel Thinger was required to complete 10 PEC trips in the last three months and he completed 24. Captain Daniel Thinger was required to maintain an average score of 4.0 on a scale of 5.0 and he achieved a 4.35 average (his score for the first month was 4.17, the second month was 4.40, and the third month increased to 4.47).

Captain Daniel Thinger was sworn in by President Tynan.

Recess began at 10:09 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 10:21 a.m.

9. Reported Safety Standard Violations. (Executive Director Garfinkle)

(Reported safety standard violations occurring up to the start of the meeting will be included.)

None.

10. Reported Piloting Events from the Incident Review Committee (IRC). (Executive Director Garfinkle / Vice President Hayes-White)

(Reportable piloting events occurring up to the start of the meeting will be included.)

None.

11. Update and discussion on the status of revisions to:

A) Section 236 of Title 7, California Code of Regulations (CCR). (Executive Director Garfinkle)

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that, as reported in his correspondence (under agenda item 6A), the revised version of Section 236 (the Rate Hearing Procedures regulations, File Number 2026-0430-01SR) was accepted by OAL and will be effective on October 1, 2026.

B) Section 214 of Title 7, California Code of Regulations (CCR). (Executive Director Garfinkle)

Possible Board action to approve additional changes to Section 214 of Title 7 California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that Board Counsel Tuck's revisions of Section 214, Title 7 CCR, were included in the Board documents and asked the Board to confirm their acceptance of the revisions. The non-substantial changes included:

- Changed gendered terms to position titles or gender-neutral terms
- Removed references to "Inland pilot".
- Made minor changes for clarification: Changed "the program" to "the training program", added/removed "and", "an", "the", added "in those broadcasts" in reference to warning broadcasts mentioned under section (h)(3)(A)(10), and updated punctuation, capitalization, and pluralization.

President Tynan stated that the revisions were shown in green for additions and red strikethrough for removed language.

MOTION: Commissioner Carr moved to accept the changes made to Section 214 of Title 7 CCR and send the revised document to OAL. Commissioner Rodriguez seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Benedict, Carr, Hayes-White, Korwatch, Rodriguez, and Tynan.
NO: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

12. Status report on the Board's Information Technology Modernization Project (ITMP). (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

Assistant Director Millspaugh stated that procurement of an IT solution for the ITMP is still in the evaluation phase, and a contract is anticipated by September 2026. If the authority for the project remains in the Governor's 2026/2027 budget, the authority will be available once Project Approval Lifecycle (PAL) Stage Four is approved.

13. Joint Pilot Boat Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee (Commissioner Carr) Discussion SFBP's report on the Pilot Vessel (P/V) San Francisco shipyard period and possible SFBP recovery of expenses utilizing Pilot Boat Program funds.

Possible Board action to approve reimbursement of P/V San Francisco shipyard expenses.

Commissioner Carr stated that there were currently no updates, but Captain McIntyre requested this agenda item be kept on the July 2026 Board agenda. SFBP would like to submit additional information for the Board's consideration.

14. Pilot Continuing Education Committee. (President Tynan)

Report on the Pilot Continuing Education Committee meeting held on June 23, 2026.

President Tynan stated that the Pilot Continuing Education Committee:

- Met on June 23, 2026,
- Identified action items to work on with Board counsel included contracting for manned model training, and other training adjustments and potential statutory changes,
- The Committee will have more to report at the August 2026 Board meeting,
- Requested additional information from SFBP regarding continuing education training needs by August 1, 2026, and
- The Committee is scheduled to meet again on August 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that one of the main discussion points (at the Committee meeting) was the current contract with Artelia (in France), for manned model training, set to expire in June 2027.

The Committee reviewed the continuing education contract for manned model training. The Committee further discussed the proposed transition of moving Continuing Education administration from the Board to the SFBP, which would require both regulatory and legislative changes that cannot be completed prior to the current contract expiration. The tentative plan is to simultaneously pursue the necessary legislative changes while the Board pursues a contract for manned model training. If administration of Continuing Education is moved to SFBP as proposed, and SFBP established a new contract(s) directly with qualifying contractors, the Board would cancel any existing contract(s) for related services. All training would continue to meet Board-established requirements, with Continuing Education surcharge funds retained by SFBP and receipts submitted to the Board to confirm expenditures.

In response to Commissioner Korwatch's question regarding mechanisms to prevent misuse of funds, President Tynan stated that pilots would be held accountable for the funds via a formal mechanism. Executive Director Garfinkle noted that other Board

programs have utilized funding models that allow for surcharges to be retained by SFBP with an accounting of expenses.

Additional information will be presented at the August 2026 Board meeting.

15. Discussion regarding the potential increase of the indemnification insurance amount included for vessels who elect to purchase trip insurance. (Captain Anne McIntyre, SFBP)

Captain McIntyre requested this agenda item be deferred to the July 2026 Board meeting and the Board agreed to do so.

16. Stakeholders' report on subjects that may be of interest to the Board, including reports on shipping activity regionally and within the Board's jurisdiction, and the status of the next pilot build. (Mike Jacob, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) / Captain Anne McIntyre, SFBP)

Ms. Cohen reported on behalf of PMSA on the following items:

- **PORT TRAFFIC – CARGO CONTAINERS (MAY 2026)**

Ms. Cohen reported on cargo container activity at major West Coast ports for May 2026. Notable highlights included a record-breaking 32% increase in Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU)s at the Port of Long Beach, marking the busiest May on record and placing the port on pace for a record year. The Ports of Los Angeles and Oakland also reported year-over-year increases for May 2026, while the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) reported a year-to-date volume decline of 14%. Commissioners Rodriguez and Korwatch expressed considerable interest in the record-breaking 32% increase in TEUs at the Port of Long Beach, and Ms. Cohen noted she would need to investigate further to identify the specific contributing factors.

- **STATE LEGISLATION**

Ms. Cohen reported that numerous legislative deadlines have occurred since the May 2026 Board meeting, resulting in significantly fewer bills actively moving through the legislative process. PMSA is currently focused on budget language approved by the Legislature on June 15, 2026, that would significantly expand state anti-automation policy by prohibiting the use of state funds for automated cargo handling equipment and supporting infrastructure. Ms. Cohen noted that this policy, sponsored by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), presently applies broadly to any cargo handling equipment with automation potential, and is not limited solely to port operations.

Ms. Cohen reported on the \$100 million dollar grant the Port of Oakland had received toward port infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Cohen also noted PMSA continues to work with the Blue Whales Blue Skies (BWBS) program and is awaiting data on projected impacts to better assess the effects of the new program.

CalSTA Ex-Officio Commissioner Casey stated that the \$100 million noted by Ms. Cohen is part of a larger \$1.2 billion award appropriated across multiple budget years,

to assist with port improvement efforts. Commissioner Casey also noted that CalSTA is reviewing details of the anti-automation policy due to the excessively broad language and that CalSTA is working to obtain additional information to determine potential impacts.

Captain McIntyre, from SFBP, reported that SFBP did not have anything to add regarding legislation, however she wanted to report that SFBP completed the vessel construction agreement for the new pilot station boat, materials are being ordered, and the vessel build is officially underway.

17. Update and discussion regarding the status of 2026 Pilot Trainee Program Exam, including a report on the Selection Appeal Committee meeting. (Commissioner Carr and Executive Director Garfinkle)

President Tynan praised Commissioner Carr for his contributions to the exam process and expressed satisfaction with Dainis's performance in the simulation development sessions, noting that Dainis added value by updating the scoring and increasing the objectivity of the scoring. President Tynan also thanked Board Counsel Lincoff and the Selection Appeal Committee members for their contributions to the Selection Appeal Committee meeting held on June 3, 2026.

Regarding the Selection Appeal process, President Tynan reported that four appeals were granted approval, two were conditionally granted approval, and six were not approved at the June 3, 2026, Selection Appeal Committee meeting, with two additional appeals scheduled for review at the June 25, 2026, Selection Appeal Committee meeting. Approximately 50 applicants have qualified as candidates to take the exam, a number that may increase pending the outcome of the June 25, 2026, appeal decisions.

Commissioner Carr reported that exam development is nearly complete, with the Knowledge Based Test (KBT) fully developed, the simulation portion is substantially complete, and Dainis is actively developing questions for the interview portion in collaboration with subject matter experts. The KBT is scheduled for July 20, 2026, and will be remotely proctored. The interview portion is scheduled for August 19-21, 2026, and will also be conducted remotely to reduce travel requirements for candidates located outside of the Bay Area.

In response to questions from Commissioners Korwatch and Hayes-White regarding the scoring method, Executive Director Garfinkle provided the following overview of the exam structure and scoring:

- Each portion of the exam accounts for 25% of the total score, comprised of experience points, the KBT, the simulator portion, and the interview.
- The exam will be scored using a modified Angoff scoring method, which is based on the subject matter and difficulty of each question rather than a set point value or curve.
- Applicants must successfully pass each portion of the exam before advancing to the next. They must qualify for the exam (via their application) and pass the KBT and Simulator portions before they move to the interview, after which their final score is counted.

- The interview portion, conducted by three Commissioners and a member of the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR), may add points to an applicant's score. The interview will impact the order in which an applicant ranks on the final list of examinees candidates that pass the KBT and simulator portions of the exam but will not remove them from the list.
- The KBT will consist of 85 multiple choice questions. Exam questions are kept confidential to allow for their use in future examinations.

Executive Director Garfinkle noted that upon completion of all exam portions, the psychometricians will determine a final tally that will be presented to the Board for a vote to approve the candidate list. Upon Board approval, trainees will be selected from the approved list. This will be the second exam administered since the interview portion was added to the exam process.

18. Closed session for the Board to confer with legal counsel regarding potential significant exposure to litigation against the Board involving a former licensee. (Board Counsel)

The Board is authorized to discuss this matter in a closed session pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (e)(1) and (e)(2)(B).

None.

19. Proposals for the next Board meeting agenda. (President Tynan)

President Tynan and Commissioner Carr requested the following for July 2026 Board agenda: Retain agenda items 13 (SFBP's report) and 15 (potential increase of the indemnification insurance amount), and 17 (exam update), and include a new agenda item for Commissioner Carr to present the safety standard violation update, including the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) survey and the 2028 IMO safety revisions, to encourage licensees to report safety issues/concerns more frequently.

President Tynan stated that she would not be present in the July Board meeting, due to a scheduling conflict.

20. Comments by public and Board Members on matters not on the agenda.

None.

20. Adjournment.

President Tynan adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Submitted by:



Allen Garfinkle
Executive Director

ACRONYM INDEX

Acronyms / Abbreviations	Definition
AFMR	Absent For Medical Reasons
AB	Assembly Bill
BOPC/Board	Board of Pilot Commissioners
BWBS	Blue Whales Blue Skies
CalHR	The California Department of Human Resources
Cal Poly	The California Polytechnic State University
CalSTA	The California State Transportation Agency
CCR	California Code of Regulations
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
Dainis	Dainis & Company, Incorporated (Psychometrician company)
DGS	The Department of General Services
FCP	First-Class Pilotage (test)
FY	Fiscal Year
GRT	Gross Registered Tons
HNC	Harbors and Navigation Code
IFB	Invitation for Bids
ILWU	The International Longshore and Warehouse Union
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMPA	the International Maritime Pilots' Association
IRC	Incident Review Committee
IT	Information Technology
ITMP	Information Technology Modernization Project
KBT	Knowledge Based Test
MRP	Minimum Rest Period (12 hours)
NWSA	Northwest Seaport Alliance
OAL	The Office of Administrative Law
PAL	Project Approval Lifecycle
PEC	Pilot Evaluation Committee
PMSA	The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
P/V	Passenger Vessel / Pilot Vessel
REC	Regional Exam Center
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposal
SCO	The State Controller's Office
SFBP	San Francisco Bar Pilots
SOW	Scope of Work
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (unit of measurement referring to shipping containers with the internal dimensions of 20 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 8 feet tall)
USCG	United States Coast Guard

This and other documents for this meeting can be found on the Board's website www.bopc.ca.gov.

