

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 August 27, 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

Access Code:

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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, August 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**

Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present (in person and by phone)

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

Board Members Absent

None

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
Patrick Tuck, Board Counsel

Identified Public Present (in person and by phone)

Jen Cohen, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA)
Captain Paul Ruff, San Francisco Bar Pilots (SFBP)
Kevin Baldwin, SFBP General Counsel
Luke Lisi, CalSTA Loveridge Fellow
Jaimie Bever, Washington State Board of Pilot Commissioners Executive Director (by phone)

OPEN MEETING

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

President Tynan called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.

Commissioners Hayes-White and Rodriguez noted that they were participating by phone.

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

Possible Board action to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 23, 2026.

Commissioner Carr stated that the revised draft incorporated the changes he requested.

MOTION: Commissioner Carr moved to approve the draft July 23, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Benedict seconded the motion.

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

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: Tynan.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

4. President Announcements and Activities. (President Tynan)

President Tynan stated that:

- She was on the panel for the pilot trainee exam interviews.
- She heard that (earlier in August 2026) California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Maritime Academy Cadet Zion Jerge (Senior) rescued two (a father and son) from drowning near Foster City, California. He performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on the son, saving his life. She reported that the story about a maritime cadet making a positive contribution to his community is being shared on multiple news outlets. President Tynan encouraged everyone to share this heart-warming story.

5. Commissioner Announcements and Activities. (Commissioners)

CalSTA Ex-Officio Member Casey stated that:

- CalSTA Loveridge Fellow Luke Lisi came with her to attend this August 2026 Board meeting. He is based out of Riverside, California.
- She met with the Port of Stockton the week prior to the August 2026 Board meeting. She attended the meeting with representatives from Go-Biz, CalSTA and Caltrans. During the meeting, they discussed efforts to improve Port services. Commissioner Casey reported that it was good to see the port in person, and see the current state of activities, etc., occurring at the Port.

Commissioner Benedict stated that on August 10, 2026, he, CalSTA Loveridge Fellow Lisi, Assistant Director Millspaugh, various members of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and the Department of Finance (DOF) met and rode together on a pilot boat.

6. Directors' Report. (Executive Director Garfinkle / Assistant Director Millspaugh)

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 July 23, 2026.

Since the Board meeting of July 23, 2026, the following activities and correspondence have occurred:

- On July 29, 2026, Board Staff received a copy of an article from the Alameda Post about the former Pilot Vessel (P/V) GOLDEN GATE's new life with the Alameda Sea Scouts.
- On July 31, 2026, Board Staff received a copy of a letter from the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department regarding the Harbor Safety Committee's correspondence with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regarding the committee's concerns about the closure of the Gashouse Cove Fuel Dock.
- On August 6, 2026:
 - Executive Director Garfinkle received a letter from Carl Johnson resigning from the Pilot Trainee Training Program.
 - Board Staff received a copy of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)'s report on the 2024 fatal vessel collision between a bulk carrier and a towing vessel in Lynchburg, Texas. Executive Director Garfinkle encouraged the Board to read the report and stated that the incident involves the pilot being on a personal cell phone call during the accident.
- On August 10-14, 2026, Dainis & Company (Dainis) administered the simulator portion of the Trainee Training Exam at Cal Poly Maritime. Executive Director Garfinkle attended and witnessed all sessions. He was very satisfied with the level of professionalism that Dainis brought to the exam and with the high level of cooperation provided by the Board's state partners at Cal Poly. He also thanked former Board member, Jennifer Schmid, who thoroughly and enthusiastically provided logistical and moral support to the Board's efforts throughout the preparation and execution of the exam. Of the 25 applicants who completed the simulator portion of the exam, 10 passed, resulting in a pass rate of 40%. The final portion of the exam, the interviews, was conducted last week between August 19-21, 2026. Pending the outcome of any appeals, Board staff anticipate presenting a Ranked List to the Board at its September 24, 2026 meeting
- On August 25, 2026, Board Counsel Patrick Tuck and Executive Director Garfinkle attended a meeting with representatives from the Office of Risk and Insurance Management; where the topic of trainee insurance was discussed. It was a very productive meeting, and Board staff are hopeful that the state can provide the services being sought to protect the Board's trainees.

B) Report on Pilot Licensing Matters, Board Surcharges, and Report of the Pension Fiduciary.

LICENSING:

Since July 23, 2026, Board meeting, the Board issued license renewals to Board licensees: Captains Burns, Laakso, Merritt, Murney, Pascucci, and Starnitzky.

BOARD SURCHARGES:

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

- For July 2026, the billed amount was \$881,810. This amount was comprised of the following surcharge amounts:
 - Board Operations Surcharge: \$244,960
 - Pilot Training Surcharge: \$32,950
 - Trainee Training Surcharge: \$39,540
 - Pilot Boat Surcharge: \$564,360
- For July 2026, the cash collected and remitted to the Board was \$860,486. This amount was comprised of the following surcharge amounts:
 - Board Operations Surcharge: \$239,118
 - Pilot Training Surcharge: \$31,950
 - Trainee Training Surcharge: \$44,090
 - Pilot Boat Surcharge: \$545,328
- KEY OBSERVATIONS:
 - Cash collected was \$21,325 less than the billed amount for July 2026.
 - The 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.

JULY 2026 PENSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- For July 2026, the SFBP cash collected was \$92,380 less than the amount distributed to plan participants.
 - Billed Amount: \$1,375,346
 - Cash Collected: \$1,282,967
- Surcharge Rate for the Quarter: \$0.04874 per gross registered ton
- Rolling Look Back Period: April 2025 through March 2026
- Monthly Tonnage: 28,218,022
- Administrative Costs: \$3,170
- Amount Distributed to Pension Beneficiaries: \$1,372,176
- Total Monthly Target Rates: \$1,319,740

- Amount Over Target: \$55,607

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

Total Active Pensioners as of July 30, 2026: 85

Most Recent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Increase: April 1, 2026

C) Report on legislative activities and contractual matters.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Assistant Director Millspaugh reported that Board staff continue to monitor Assembly Bill (AB) 2788, the transportation omnibus bill, which clarifies that the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun include the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton, and that insurance provisions apply to any portion of a vessel transit occurring within those ports' waters. Since the July 2026 Board meeting, the bill passed the Assembly, was ordered to the Senate, passed out of the Senate Committees on Transportation and Judiciary, and was amended and passed out of the Committee on Appropriations, read a second time, amended and Ordered to a third reading. None of the amendments affect the Board. The Senate cleared the amendments for this bill earlier in the morning (on August 27, 2026) and sent it to the Governor for a response.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

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

- Marine Investigator Services – Invitation for Bids (IFB) (Contract # 25M900009, 25M900010): Both agreements for investigator services (one with Marine Group Global Services and the other with Michael OCallaghan) have been fully executed and approved by all parties, including the Department of General Services (DGS).
- Information Technology Modernization Project (ITMP) Information Technology (IT) Solution Request for Proposal (RFP) (Contract # 25M900005): The RFP was released on February 6, 2026. Phase 1 and Phase 2 responses have been evaluated, and qualifying bidders provided product demonstrations. Board staff and California Department of Technology (CDT) staff continue negotiations with the top vendor. The next step involves contract negotiations, with execution anticipated by October 2026.
- Pilot Continuing Education Contract – Non-Competitive Bid (NCB) (Contract # To Be Determined): The current agreement for pilot manned model continuing education services expires June 30, 2027. Board staff worked with SFBP to obtain training requirement recommendations from SFBP's Continuing Education Committee. Those recommendations will be incorporated, as appropriate, into a formal or informal Request for Information (RFI) to help determine whether an RFP or NCB contract is most appropriate.
- Pilot Trainee Training Exam — Captain's Role Simulation Exam: Board staff completed and executed an agreement to fill the Captain's Role for the Simulator portion of the 2026 Pilot Trainee Training Exam.

CalSTA Ex-Officio Member Casey stated that, regarding AB 2788, CalSTA provided context background and must present it to the Governor by the end of the month.

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.

Commissioner Carr read the report for Port Agent Carlier (report was as of August 27, 2026):

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

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

- Captain Long, since July 29, 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 52 licensees on the SFBP roster.
- Work periods over 12 hours: 18 occurrences, three exceeded 14 hours.
- Night work periods over 10 hours without rest opportunity: Three occurrences.
- Night work periods over 18 hours in a 72-hour period: None.
- Rest periods of less than 12 hours (MRPs): 11 occurrences. The minimum rest period was 11 hours.

B) Monthly report on SFBP ship piloting business activity.

Commissioner Carr (for Port Agent Carlier) reported that as of August 27, 2026:

- The status of each of the SFBP-owned pilot boats was reported as:
 - P/V CALIFORNIA, DRAKE, GOLDEN GATE, PITTSBURG, and SAN FRANCISCO: normal operations.
- Billed vessel moves, for July 2026, were as follows:
 - Bar Crossings: 490
 - Bay Moves: 144
 - River Moves: 46
 - Total Moves: 680

- Total Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT): 28.2 million.
- When comparing the same period in 2025, total moves were down 2.2% and GRT was down 0.6%.

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 Report. (Committee Chair Ruff)

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

Summary of items discussed and acted on by the 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 – AUGUST 19, 2026

The PEC met on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. The members present were Captains Stultz, Slack, and Ruff. Executive Director Garfinkle joined the PEC in open session from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

- **OPEN SESSION**

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

- Minutes: The PEC approved the minutes from the prior meeting.
- The simulation portion of the Board exam held the previous week, how many candidates were on the list, and the possibility of another exam cycle in two years.
- Correspondence received since last committee meeting, including trainee Johnson's resignation from training.
- The relationship between the Board and SFBP, regarding the training program. Chair Ruff stated that it would be nice for PEC to require Train the Trainer certification training at a minimum for possibly the whole of the SFBP pilot members.
- When the list for new pilot trainee candidates is approved, Chair Ruff stated it would be good to start two trainees in the training program immediately and a second pair a couple months later, before the end of the year, if possible.

The open session concluded at 7:45 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 is one active trainee in the program: Captain Roberts. His training time in the program is 11.8 months. He is observing, performing part handling, and handling ships under the direct supervision of a licensed San Francisco bar pilot.
- Captain Roberts is continuing his First-Class Pilotage (FCP) testing (at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Regional Exam Center (REC)) and riding ships in between testing periods. In July 2026, he had two (river) sections remaining. Since then, he has taken both sections. He passed Sacramento and should get the results for Stockton in the next week. He took the Stockton exam at his 12-month mark, with a nearly 200-day government shutdown. Chair Ruff stated that he was impressed that Captain Roberts was able to meet the recommended benchmark for this metric. Chair Ruff stated that he was pleased with Captain Roberts' commitment to the program.
- In individual closed session meetings, he talked about issues and/or difficulties encountered, and the PEC attempted to come up with strategies to help advance Captain Roberts' training.
- OPEN SESSION
 - The next PEC meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. in this office.
 - On August 19, 2026, the PEC meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Commissioners and attendees discussed exit interviews, improved processes, mental fitness, training, and trainee status. Talking points included:

- Commissioner Korwatch asked if an exit interview was done for Captain Johnson. In response:
 - Chair Ruff stated that there was no formal tool (exit interview process) for trainee resignations.
 - Executive Director Garfinkle spoke with Captain Johnson to discuss his resignation. Executive Director Garfinkle did not try to change Captain Johnson's decision or support it; but he did make sure Captain Johnson had given the decision careful deliberation.
- Commissioner Korwatch asked if there was potential for improving the pilot trainee training program. In response:
 - Chair Ruff stated that the PEC is always looking for ways to improve the program. There may be possible improvements noted by Dainis, coming from observations made during the development and execution of the pilot trainee exam, which could be used to identify candidates' potential weak points and assist trainees in meeting the standards and discipline needed to be a pilot.

- Commissioner Korwatch asked whether the mental fitness of trainees could be assessed as part of the examination process, before they enter the program.
 - Executive Director Garfinkle stated that the statute requires a pilot to be of good mental and physical health. Physical requirements are clearly identified but the program has not clearly defined the parameters for mental health.
 - President Tynan requested the conversation be put on hold until Captain McIntyre can provide input.
 - Executive Director Garfinkle stated that Board staff will need to convene the Pilot Fitness Committee to move forward on this issue.
 - Chair Ruff agreed with Commissioner Korwatch's statement that potential mental evaluations are also hindered by the lack of criteria; but it is difficult to determine how to identify the criteria.
- President Tynan requested an agenda item to include train the trainer training for pilots. She stated that being a great pilot does not always translate into developed training skills. In response:
 - Executive Director Garfinkle stated that Washington State licensed pilots are required to have train the trainer training. Board staff will investigate the possibility of the State offering this training.
 - Commissioner Carr stated, and Commissioner Benedict agreed, that transferring the Continuing Education administration to SFBP and rolling in a train the trainer component under their purview would help resolve this issue.
 - President Tynan stated that some oil companies send their pilots to train the trainer classes and development of the agenda item should speak to providing training to enhancing pilot skills in support of a successful trainee training program.
 - Executive Director Garfinkle encouraged feedback from anyone who could identify a train the trainer provider.
 - Commissioner Benedict suggested maybe bringing an instructor to Pier 9.
- President Tynan asked when the last trainee in the program would be ready to graduate.
 - Chair Ruff stated that the trainee is anticipated to graduate mid-2027; but the current trainee has been exceeding expectations at every step of the training process, which could lead to an earlier training finish date.

- 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.

None.

- 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.

None.

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. Discussion of a possible Board retreat, including a review of the meeting's purpose, proposed discussion topics, and solicitation of potential discussion topics from Board members and the public. (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

Assistant Director Millspaugh provided a brief overview for the Board; noting that some commissioners had expressed an interest in holding another Board off-site meeting in 2026. He asked the Board to consider the timing and scope of a potential off-site meeting; since two Commissioners will be leaving the Board at the end of 2026 (and a third Commissioner's term will end but that commissioner is eligible for reappointment).

The Board discussed and decided to aim to hold a retreat following the January 2027 or February 2027 Board meeting; with the intent that Commissioners that are terming out

and those that are newly appointed may all be in the same meeting. President Tynan assigned Commissioners Carr and Korwatch to a newly-formed Ad Hoc Committee to meet prior to the September 2026 Board meeting to present a plan for the 2027 retreat at the September 2026 Board meeting.

12. Finance Committee Report. (Commissioner Rodriguez)

A) Report on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 17, 2026. (Commissioner Rodriguez)

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that the Finance Committee met on August 17, 2026. Members present were Captain McIntyre, Mr. Jacob, and Commissioner Rodriguez. Based on their review of to-date and projected expenditures and revenues for the current fiscal year, recommended the Board keep all current surcharge rates unchanged. The Finance Committee will meet again in November 2026 and may make additional recommendations to the Board at that time.

B) Finance Committee recommendations to the Board on the following Board surcharges (Commissioner Rodriguez):

- a. To adjust or not adjust the Board Operations Surcharge rate (currently at 6.50% of all pilotage fees).

Possible Board action to adjust the Board Operations Surcharge rate.

None.

- b. To adjust or not adjust the Pilot Trainee Training Surcharge rate (currently at \$30/trainee/move).

Possible Board action to adjust the Pilot Trainee Training Surcharge rate.

None.

- c. To adjust or not adjust the Pilot Continuing Education Surcharge rate (currently at \$50 per move).

Possible Board action to adjust the Pilot Continuing Education Surcharge rate.

None.

- d. To adjust or not adjust the Pilot Boat Surcharge rate (currently at \$0.020 per gross registered ton).

Possible Board action to adjust the Pilot Boat Surcharge rate.

None.

13. Pilot Continuing Education Committee. (Vice President Hayes-White)

A) Report on the Pilot Continuing Education Committee meeting held on August 6, 2026.

Commissioner Hayes-White stated that the Pilot Continuing Education Committee met on August 6, 2026. The Committee discussed the manned model training meeting document at length.

Commissioner Hayes-White asked other members of the Committee to add their perspective on the proposed changes to the Continuing Education program. Executive Director Garfinkle added that the Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposal to delegate continued education responsibilities to SFBP, while the Board retains funding oversight. This approval would allow the Committee to move forward and draft related statute revisions to bring back to the Board for approval.

B) Discussion on the proposal to shift Continuing Education contracting from the Board to the San Francisco Bar Pilots (SFBP) and the statutory and regulatory changes necessary to make this shift possible.

Possible Board action to initiate statutory and regulatory changes shifting Continuing Education contracting responsibilities from the Board to SFBP, or related action.

Attendees discussed the current training process and shifting training contracting authority to SFBP. Discussion points included:

- In response to Commissioner Rodriguez's question regarding an annual report of which pilots take continuing education training, Executive Director Garfinkle stated that, although there is no annual report publicly released, training participation is required, the pilots taking the training are tracked, and their completed training is noted on the checklist for President Tynan and the Executive Director to sign for approval of their license renewals. Typically, a group of pilots attend the manned model training each year, with approximately 20% of the pilots rotating in at a time.
- Board Counsel Tuck requested that any recommendations from the Pilot Continuing Education Committee be sent to him prior to being presented to the Board.
- SFBP Counsel Baldwin stated that he and Captain McIntyre have been working on draft statutory changes to propose and that they will share the draft with Board Counsel Tuck.

MOTION: Commissioner Hayes-White moved that the Board authorize the Pilot Continuing Education Committee to prepare draft statutory changes to recommend to the Board that would shift Continuing Education contracting responsibility from the Board to the SFBP, while the Board retains oversight. Commissioner Korwatch seconded the motion.

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

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

14. Update and discussion on the status of the Board's Information Technology Modernization Project (ITMP). (Assistant Director Millsbaugh)

Assistant Director Millsbaugh stated that:

- On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, Records Management and Program Support Coordinator Greg Shepherd gave a presentation at the California Government

Technology Summit regarding the state's recently released its new Artificial Intelligence (AI) assistant, known as Poppy.

- The ITMP IT solution proposals have been reviewed, and negotiations are underway with the potential vendor. If the process moves forward without delays, a contract can be expected to be executed as soon as October 2026.

15. 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 that:

- **Legislative updates included:**

- Ms. Cohen noted that the transportation omnibus bill, AB 2788, had already been discussed earlier and she had no additional information.
- There are four days left of the legislative session.

- **Shipping volumes:**

- The Port of Oakland:
 - Handled 179,999 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in July 2026, essentially unchanged from June 2026.
 - Compared to July 2025, total volume decreased 11.4%.
 - January 2026 through July 2026, the Port handled 1,294,664 total TEUs, 3.8 percent less than the same period in 2025.
 - The decline in total container volume has been driven largely by fewer empty container movements.
- The Port of Los Angeles (POLA):
 - July 2026 cargo numbers were six percent below 2025 figures, but POLA still saw its second strongest July on record, processing 960,464 container units.
- The Port of Long Beach (POLB):
 - January 2026 through July 2026, POLB handled 1.2 percent more than the same period in 2025.
 - POLB handled 1.7 percent less in July 2026 than July 2025. Even so, it was POLB's second-busiest July on record and the fourth-strongest month overall in its 115-year history.
- Both POLA and POLB have had nearly record-breaking years.

- **Other shipping and port news:**

- The Port of Oakland held a Turning Basin Widening Project Signing Ceremony on August 27, 2026 (at the same time as the Board meeting). The signing of the inaugural Design Agreement formally launches a \$640 million infrastructure

project to modernize the Port's turning basin. The improvements will allow the world's largest and most environmentally advanced vessels to maneuver through the Port's waterways safely and more efficiently.

- POLA Executive Director Seroka was quoted as saying that they are planning for a 5% year over year uptick in cargo volumes, in the next six to eight months, as conflict in the Red Sea persists and draft restrictions from the Panama Canal progress. He stated that, due to the ongoing concerns at the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal, more cargo is going to be flowing through the West Coast ports.
- The Panama Canal Authority, in an advisory to shipping, reduced daily vessel transits beginning in September 2026 to reflect a deteriorating outlook linked to below-average rainfall and the prospect of a severe 2026–2027 El Niño weather event. The water supply in Lake Gatun supplying the canal's lock system is becoming a direct constraint on the reliability, cost, and routing of cargo moving through U.S. East Coast and Gulf Coast ports.
- Recently, the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has implemented the Congressional Review Act (CRA). CRA provides Congress the opportunity to rescind California's Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) authority to enact its own emissions standard for the At-Berth Regulation Amendments made in 2020 and the latest Commercial Harbor Craft (CHC) rules. Both now have joint resolutions introduced in Congress.
 - The At-Berth regulation amendment rescission resolutions have been authored by California Representative Fong, who introduced House Joint Resolution (H. J. Res.) 210, and Alaska Junior Representative Senator Sullivan, who introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S. J. Res.) 209. Resolutions regarding California Air Resources Board (CARB)'s CHC regulations have also been introduced at S. J. Res. 210 and H. J. Res. 21. All resolutions need to be ratified by Congress by December 18, 2026. Movement is not anticipated until after the election.
 - PMSA will defer to SFBP regarding the projected impacts of CHC's new rules.

SFBP Counsel Baldwin stated that the impact of the U.S. EPA actions on CARB regulations regarding vessels (including pilot boats) is debatable and it would be premature to disregard the CARB [harbor craft emissions] regulations because the rules could be revised under a future administration; and it is unlikely the current multi-million-dollar industry investment into complying with these regulations would be disregarded.

16. Update and discussion regarding the status of 2026 Pilot Trainee Program Exam, including reports on the Selection Appeal Committee meeting on July 23, 2026 and status of the 2026 Pilot Trainee Training Program Selection Examination. (Commissioner Carr and Executive Director Garfinkle)

Executive Director Garfinkle:

- Stated that the 2026 Pilot Trainee Program Exam went well and that he was impressed with the psychometricians, Dainis and Company. Dainis executed the

exam well, providing sufficient support staff to significantly reduce the burden on Board staff and SFBP.

- Thanked Commissioner Carr for his support throughout the process and for obtaining feedback from former Board exam developer Captain Gates; and Board staff for efficiently processing/digitizing applications and implementing the exam.

Commissioner Carr stated that 48 applicants cleared the prerequisites and 46 took the Board's Knowledge Based Test. Dainis is working to finalize the list.

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that the list, currently projected to be released in September 2026, will have 10 candidates [dependent on the result of candidate appeals]. All examinees have been notified of their pass/fail status. Those that passed are awaiting their ranking. Considering the upcoming retirements, and the current number of pilots (currently there are 52 pilots and one trainee) he recommended conducting the next exam in two years. The last exam was held in 2022 but was not approved until 2023 due to legal issues. He also noted that the cost to hold the exam was approximately \$35,000 per successful candidate.

President Tynan agreed with Executive Director Garfinkle's recommendation to hold another exam in two years instead of the previous three-year interval, stating her hope that half the list would be exhausted by the end of the year.

Recess began at 10:50 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 11:03 a.m.

Closed session began at 11:05 a.m.

Open session resumed at 11:27 a.m.

17. The Board will discuss the performance and compensation of the Executive Director pursuant to HNC section 1156. (continued from the July 23, 2026 Board meeting)

The Board may go into closed session pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1) of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to discuss these employment matters.

Board Counsel Tuck confirmed a quorum and reported that, for agenda item 17, the Board approved an increase in Executive Director Garfinkle's compensation. The increase will be sent to CalHR and will take effect as soon as CalHR approves it.

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).

Nothing to report out of closed session.

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

President Tynan listed the agenda items for the next Board meeting, including:

- **TRAIN THE TRAINER:** Add a discussion agenda item (discussion only, no action) to discuss adding a train the trainer training to the Board-provided training.

- **AD HOC COMMITTEE (Board In-Service Planning Committee):** Add a discussion agenda item to report on the Ad Hoc Committee's meeting and potential progress in planning the January/February 2027 Board retreat.
- **PILOT CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Add a discussion agenda item to report on the Pilot Continuing Education Committee's meeting and potential progress related to statutory changes to shift Continuing Education contracting responsibility from the Board to the SFBP, while the Board retains oversight.

In response to Board Counsel Tuck's question regarding when the next Pilot Continuing Education Committee meeting is scheduled, Commissioner Hayes-White requested Board staff send an attendance poll to select a date.

Executive Director Garfinkle requested agenda item 16, regarding the exam, be kept on the agenda so the 2026 trainee ranked list could be discussed and likely submitted for approval.

Board Counsel Tuck highlighted that, in the last meeting, the Board agreed to brief President Tynan and request that she set up an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss the changes needed to HNC 1198, regarding the potential increase of the indemnification insurance amount included for vessels who elect to purchase trip insurance. The Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be set up after the next Board meeting.

In response to Assistant Director Millspaugh's question regarding a time frame for train the trainer training, President Tynan suggested and Commissioner Carr agreed to delay the discussion until the next Board meeting, in September 2026. President Tynan stated that the Board can discuss (in more detail) the timeline, training objectives, etc. at the September 2026 Board meeting.

20. Comments by public and Commissioners on matters not on the agenda.

Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners Executive Director Jaimie Bever offered to discuss train the trainer training with Board staff. She expressed her enthusiasm to offer services and collaborate with the Board.

President Tynan thanked Executive Director Bever for offering to collaborate with the Board.

21. Adjournment.

President Tynan adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Submitted by:



Allen Garfinkle
Executive Director

ACRONYM INDEX

Acronyms / Abbreviations	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
AFMR	Absent For Medical Reasons
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BCDC	Bay Conservation and Development Commission
BOPC/Board	Board of Pilot Commissioners
CAA	Clean Air Act
CARB	California Air Resources Board
Cal Poly	The California Polytechnic State University
CalSTA	The California State Transportation Agency
CDT	The California Department of Technology
CHC	Commercial Harbor Craft
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CMA	California Maritime Academy
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRA	Congressional Review Act
Dainis	Dainis & Company, Incorporated (Psychometrician company)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
DGS	The Department of General Services
FCP	First-Class Pilotage (test)
FY	Fiscal Year
GRT	Gross Registered Tons
H. J. Res.	House Joint Resolution
HNC	Harbors and Navigation Code
IFB	Invitation for Bids
IRC	Incident Review Committee
IT	Information Technology
ITMP	Information Technology Modernization Project
MRP	Minimum Rest Period (12 hours)
NCB	Non-Competitive Bid
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
PAL	Project Approval Lifecycle
PEC	Pilot Evaluation Committee
PMSA	The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
POLA	The Port of Los Angeles
POLB	The Port of Long Beach
PRA	Public Records Act
P/V	Passenger Vessel / Pilot Vessel
REC	Regional Exam Center
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposal
SFBP	San Francisco Bar Pilots

Acronyms / Abbreviations	Definition
S. J. Res.	Senate Joint Resolution
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)
U.S.	United States
USCG	United States Coast Guard

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



DRAFT