



**Press Release – July 2, 2007**

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**CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST LOW EMISSION FERRY FOR SF BAY  
UNDERWAY TODAY IN SEATTLE**

**New passenger fleet being built 10 times cleaner than conventional diesel**

**Vessels will be a decade ahead of proposed new federal standards for marine engines  
that have a cut-off on public comment today**

(Seattle) Construction got underway today in Seattle at Kvichak's Boatyard with the keel-laying of the first of a fleet of cleaner diesel fast ferries being built for ferry service in San Francisco Bay. The new ferries will be equipped with pollution controls that will make them about 10 times cleaner than today's conventional diesel. The laying of the keel is the first step in the building of any vessel.

"This new ferry sets the bar for all diesel vessels, and marks the end of the era of dirty diesels" said Teri Shore, Clean Vessels Campaign Director for Friends of the Earth in San Francisco. "The U. S. EPA should require that all new ferries meet this strict standard."

In regulatory terms, the vessel's engines will be 85 percent cleaner than current federal marine engine standards (Tier II). This strict standard is the same as that being proposed for new marine engines by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency that would take effect beginning in 2014 for all ferry-type marine engines (Tier IV). The public comment period for the new regulations ends today.

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority (WTA) committed \$14.7 million from state and federal monies to construct this first of a pair of vessels for a new baywide ferry system. The ferries are expected to be on the water and to go into regular service by 2008. The vessels will be built by a team of Washington-state shipyards, Kvichak and Nichol Brothers.

Friends of the Earth (formerly Bluewater Network) won strict pollution standards in the legislation that authorized the Water Transit Authority to roll-out a new ferry system on San Francisco Bay. To respond to concerns from the environmental community about expanded ferry service, the WTA adopted a number of measures to protect the bay and marine life from potential disturbance by new ferry routes. These include low-wake, low-wash hulls; systems for avoiding collisions with whales and other marine mammals; and commitments to monitor and avoid impacts on birds.

Friends of the Earth works to stop environmental damage from vehicles and vessels, and to protect human health and the planet by reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Friends of the Earth is the U. S. voice of the world's largest network of environmental groups with one million supporters in 70 countries across five continents

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