

Article Launched: 6/28/2006 04:18 AM

Wednesday Readers' Forum

Marin Independent Journal

Get onboard

Will the Golden Gate Bridge District's new fast ferry offer clean-water transit or more of the same dirty diesel?

That's the question I had after attending Friday's bridge district board meeting.

I was prompted to go by the IJ's front-page story about the planned \$12 million, 499-passenger vessel.

I proposed that the ferry should be at least as clean as the fast ferries now being built by the San Francisco Water Transit Authority, which will be 20 times cleaner than the diesel vessels now serving Marin.

I should also note that Vallejo's MV Solano is already equipped with advanced pollution controls - making it the cleanest fast ferry on the bay today.

Of course, the bridge directors may also want to consider the hybrid-electric, solar- and wind-powered design planned for Alcatraz.

While several directors, including San Francisco supervisors Gerardo Sandoval and Jake McGoldrick, voiced support for the clean-ferry concept, it didn't seem that General Manager Celia Kupersmith or Ferry Division Manager Jim Swindler were completely on-board. It seems to me that Marin's residents and ferry riders would want nothing less than the cleanest boat and the most environmentally sound technology.

Teri Shore,

Bluewater Network, San Francisco