

Date: October 28, 2020  
Referred by: BATA

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 138

Resolution of appreciation for Dan McElhinney on the occasion of his retirement from the California Department of Transportation.

Date: October 28, 2020  
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RE: Resolution of Appreciation Dan McElhinney

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY  
Resolution No. 138

WHEREAS, Dan McElhinney this summer retired from the California Department of Transportation after a 32-year career during which he rose to the position of Director for Caltrans District 10, overseeing some 600 employees and more than 3,500 lane-miles of state highways across eight counties while managing a \$150 million annual operating budget and a nearly \$2 billion capital investment and asset management program; and

WHEREAS, before taking the reins in District 10, Dan served the people of the Bay Area from 2002 to 2019 as Chief Deputy District Director for Caltrans District 4, where he was a vital and valued partner of both BATA and MTC in the delivery of more than \$10 billion of toll bridge and highway construction and seismic safety projects, as well as myriad traffic operations, maintenance, planning, environmental and local transportation improvements across the nine-county region; and

WHEREAS, Dan's effective collaboration with BATA, the California Transportation Commission and myriad project contractors as a member of the management team for the state Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program was pivotal in the successful, on-schedule delivery of the nearly \$9 billion program — within the budget established by state law — through which the new East Span of the San Francisco Bay Bridge was constructed and through which the Bay Bridge West Span and West Approach as well as the Antioch, 1962 Benicia-Martinez, 1958 Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo-Hayward bridges all were retrofitted to meet contemporary seismic safety standards; and

WHEREAS, Dan's leadership and his partnership with BATA also were central to the success of the construction projects funded through Regional Measure 1 to build the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge (2003) and the Congressman George Miller Bridge (2007) across the Carquinez Strait between Contra Costa and Solano counties; and

WHEREAS, Dan's embrace of innovative techniques for construction, repair and demolition projects fostered such diverse breakthroughs such as the long-segment, cast-in-place

concrete sections of the 2007 Benicia-Martinez Bridge; the steel saddle system used to retrofit the shear keys at Pier E-2 on the new East Span of the Bay Bridge; the re-grouting and testing of hundreds of anchor rods at the base of the new East Span's signature single tower, the use of controlled implosions — and a Caltrans-designed “bubble curtain” to protect migratory fish — to remove 18 of the original East Span's marine foundations; and

WHEREAS, new approaches to public recreation and active transportation also earned Dan's critical endorsement, as evidenced by the retention of three former marine foundations of the original East Span to provide the public with access to the bay from both Yerba Buena Island and Oakland, and by the four-mile bicycle/pedestrian path across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge which opened in 2019 to provide for the first time a Bay Trail connection between Contra Costa and Marin counties; and

WHEREAS, approval of the use of the former Bay Bridge marine foundations for public recreation, as well as the renovation of the old Key System's landmark Interurban Electric Railway Bridge Yard Shop and its rechristening as a combination pathway potty stop and public meeting/education facility known as the Bridge Yard, plus the development of a Bay Bridge East Span-based engineering curriculum for young people allowed Dan to hone his partnership-building skills with organizations as diverse as the U.S. Coast Guard, the City and County of San Francisco's Treasure Island Development Authority, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the East Bay Regional Parks District and the University of California's Lawrence Hall of Science, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Dan's support for innovation extended to the field of highway operations, where he helped guide through the bureaucratic thickets of both Caltrans and county transportation agencies a major expansion of freeway ramp-metering systems, and the use of pricing as a congestion management tool through the integration of Express Lanes on Caltrans-owned freeways in Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties; and

WHEREAS, Dan's enthusiasm for tackling highway operations challenges is made manifest by his decision to follow his long Caltrans career with a second career as Chief Operations Officer for the Idaho Transportation Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that BATA wishes to thank Dan for his many contributions to California transportation, to express its confidence that he will record similar achievements for the benefit of the people of Idaho, and wish him many years of happy and fulfilling adventures on the job and at leisure.

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

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Scott Haggerty, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Bay Area Toll Authority at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California and at other remote locations, on October 28, 2020.