



WETA Breaks Ground on Mare Island Ferry Facility

On May 15, 2014, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility on Mare Island. The new \$28.5 million facility will be the northern anchor of WETA's regional ferry operations that now span the bay from Solano County in the north to San Mateo County in the south.



Work is underway for WETA's new Mare Island ferry facility.

The new facility will feature maintenance and repair facilities as well as increased fuel storage that will provide expanded fueling capacity in the event of a regional emergency. Eventually, it will also accommodate passenger boarding, allowing direct service to Mare Island.

"This new ferry facility will retain existing jobs and create new ones, improve public access to the waterfront, and provide Mare Island with a new transportation alternative," said Lennar Mare Island's Brian McDonough. "This is the latest of many examples of progress that can be seen all around Mare Island."

LMI will also be conducting improvements to the public waterfront promenade, including lighting and benches, and the parking lot serving the facility. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2015.

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LifeGear Design Brings Headquarters to Mare Island

LifeGear Design, a full-service design and sourcing company that creates and produces active lifestyle products for the outdoor and travel industries, recently relocated their headquarters from Benicia to Mare Island. The company produces LiteGear Bags and other products such as the AeroTray, a tiered portable station that provides hands-free support for laptops, eReaders, books, tablets, beverages and snacks at home or on-the-go.

Magi Raible, President of LifeGear Design, says she has a long history with Mare Island.

"In the 1940s, my parents met and married in Vallejo while supporting the war effort on Mare Island. They went on to raise five kids in this city. After serving in the Air Force, I also worked on Mare Island for two years in the 1980's," Raible said. "In the beginning of this year, my current lease on our offices in Benicia was coming to a close. My real estate agent suggested we have a look at Mare Island, an ideal place to grow business

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LifeGear Design President and Creative Director Magi Raible with Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis (Photo courtesy of TRYBE Creative)

“WETA Breaks Ground”, continued

There are currently approximately 100 businesses on Mare Island with more than 2,000 full-time jobs and approximately 3.4 million square-feet of commercial space occupied. More than 70 historic buildings have been returned to productive use and the majority of Mare Island’s industrial waterfront is occupied by businesses. LMI continues to focus on business development and job creation, along with the cleanup and infrastructure work necessary to make these opportunities possible.



Joining the groundbreaking ceremony were (left to right) Solano County Supervisors Erin Hannigan and Jim Spreng, Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis, WETA Executive Director Nina Rannells, U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson, former Vallejo Mayor Anthony Intintoli and LMI’s Tom Sheaff.

“LifeGear”, continued

and be part of a growing community. I really like the improvements and direction that Mayor Osby Davis is taking the city and the work Lennar is doing in development on the Island. This city offers such a rich cultural diversity and history. For me, all roads seem to lead me back home again to Vallejo. We are happy to have our new headquarters on Mare Island.”



LifeGear produces a variety of high-quality outdoor and travel products.

LifeGear’s headquarters are located in an historic officer’s mansion at 1195 Walnut Avenue, Quarters H, on Mare Island. More information about the company can be found online at www.litegearbags.com.

Mare Island Strait Provides a New Home for Salmon Spawn



Beginning in April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) teamed up to release millions of Chinook salmon smolts from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (NFH) into the Mare Island Strait. Due to drought conditions in the Central Valley, USFWS and CDFW collaborated to release the spawn close to the ocean, and Mare Island provided an ideal location. Coleman NFH was created in 1942 to help preserve Chinook salmon threatened by the loss of natural spawning area. Coleman NFH contributes up to 100,000 Chinook annually to ocean fisheries.

< Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Coleman National Fish Hatchery release Chinook salmon smolt into the Mare Island Strait. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)