



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Media availability for wind-assisted ferry demonstration project *Advanced technology reduces air pollution and fuel usage*

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air District and its partners are inviting reporters to a media availability on Thursday, May 1, to view the wind-assisted ferry boat demonstration project.

Funded by the Air District and the California Air Resources Board, this catamaran outfitted with a 40 foot tall rigid WingSail has been sailing Bay Area ferry routes since February to test the novel idea of using wind assistance to help propel ferry vessels of the future. If successful, the concept could produce dramatic reductions in fuel use, air pollution and greenhouse gases, while providing safe, reliable service.

WHAT: Media availability and photo opportunity to view wind-assisted ferry

WHO: Air District staff
Wind + Wing Technology, project operators - <http://www.windwingtech.com/>
Richard Jenkins, sail designer - <http://saildrone.com/>

WHEN: Thursday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Pier 1.5, San Francisco, north of the Ferry Building
Parking options include street parking at Embarcadero or at Valley Parking for Hornblower Cruises, located at Pier 3

Sail design and technology have changed dramatically in recent years as evidenced by last year's Americas Cup race. The WingSail on this demonstration project was designed by Richard Jenkins, CEO and cofounder of the Saildrone. It combines state-of-the-art carbon fiber composites, computer control and ultra-efficient wind dynamics to produce dramatic advances in safety and efficiency to propel commercial vessels.

The hybrid vehicle concept, which uses two or more distinct power sources to move a motor vehicle, is now a familiar site on Bay Area roads. Similarly, this project uses wind assistance together with conventional engine propulsion to reduce fuel use and air pollution. A recent engineering study concluded that WingSail technology could cut fuel costs on retrofitted ferries by 30 to 40 percent annually.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

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