

At the San Francisco Ferry Scene ...
TWO NEW LEADERS TAKE THE HELM

Wes Starratt, California Editor

Two new helmsmen are on board to lead ferry operations on San Francisco Bay. James P. Swindler is heading the Ferry Division of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD), following the untimely passing of Captain David Clark earlier this year. At the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority (WTA), the leadership torch is being passed to Steve Castleberry from Tom Bertken, who came out of retirement from Bechtel to successfully guide the WTA since its inception and is now looking forward to his second retirement.

At the GGBHTD, James Swindler's "managerial and industrial knowledge will be instrumental in the continued success of the Golden Gate Ferry system," according to the district's general manager Celia Kupersmith. Swindler joins the district from his position as director of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority, where he was instrumental in improving and streamlining operations. The authority operates ferry service between Cape Cod and the islands, carrying some 3 million passengers and 600,000 vehicles annually. Swindler's career began with a four-year shipbuilding apprentice-training program at the Quincy Shipbuilding Division of General Dynamics. He then moved to M. Rosenblatt and Son where he headed a department involved in the construction and upgrading of commercial and naval ships. Later, he served as general manager of North American Marine Associates, Inc.

At the WTA, Steve Castleberry has been serving as manager of Systems Planning since shortly after the inception of the organization. Prior to joining the WTA, he was deputy director of the Alameda County Transportation Authority, where he helped author an extension of the county's half-cent sales tax, which provided over \$1 billion in funding for the transportation system. Earlier, Castleberry was a program manager with the engineering firm, CH2M Hill, for major construction projects around the Bay Area. He holds a BS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the Pacific and a MS degree in Infrastructure Planning and Management from Stanford University.

As chief executive officer of WTA, effective December 31st, Castleberry will be responsible for implementing the Bay Area ferry expansion plan recently approved by the California State Legislature. A major hurdle to that expansion is the voter approval of a Bay Area region-wide transit measure to be funded by an increase in tolls on local state-owned bridges. If that measure is approved in a March 2004 regional election, the WTA will continue with the tasks necessary to get four of the planned new ferry routes into service. Castleberry commented, "Between now and March 2004, our attention will be on the election. But after the March election, assuming a favorable vote, we will shift our focus to the design and construction of ferry terminals and vessels that will meet our goal of getting people out of their cars and into ferries."

(Include captioned pix of Swindler and Castleberry)