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July 6, 2004

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Division of Public
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
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Re: Application B079273, Docket TS-040650, Aqua Express, LLC

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Dear Commissioners,

Last week our vice president, Grant Griffin, provided testimony on behalf of the Marine Transportation Association of Kitsap (MTAK) in support of Aqua Express's application to provide passenger-ferry service between Kingston and Seattle. The commission asked Mr. Griffin to describe the purpose and membership of MTAK. I write today to provide further information about the history and mission of our group.

MTAK is a non-profit corporation and is currently composed of 15 members with voting power and ten of-counsel members without voting power. The membership is diverse and includes private business members, public elected and appointed officials and active community members. The names of all members are noted on the left side of this stationery.

Founded in 1995 under the name Sinclair Landing Association, MTAK's first mission was managing and coordinating design of the Bremerton Transportation Center (BTC) aka the Bremerton ferry terminal. The BTC project included an HOV parking garage, commuter retail building construction pad, passenger terminal building, auto holding area and toll booths, a transit deck built over the holding area and a passenger-only ferry facility. As the BTC moved into the construction phase, SLA hired a construction project manager to act as the owner's representative and to manage the multiple contractors who were engaged to build the uplands and passenger-only ferry (POF) components of the facility. SLA utilized its status as a 6320 tax-exempt corporation to secure commercial construction financing to bridge the cash flows stream of the various grants and appropriations that funded the BTC. During and after construction SLA has facilitated coordination of both the ongoing operations and the evolving needs of the multiple agencies providing service at the BTC.

In early 2003, SLA recognized that the marine transportation needs of the community it served were changing. Shrinking revenues had led

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the state to recommend that the provision of POF service be transferred to a regional authority. The challenge of designing high-speed ferries that would not create wake-wash problems in narrow waterways such as Rich Passage deserved more research and federal funds were been pledged to that end.

To remain responsive to the community it serves, SLA modified its purpose and organization to focus more attention upon the critical role of marine transportation to Bremerton and surrounding communities. The name Marine Transportation Association of Kitsap was also adopted to better reflect the revised mission of the organization. MTAK's mission is:

To promote seamless, rider-oriented and environmentally sensitive marine transportation between Kitsap and other Puget Sound ports.

Three objectives support the MTAK mission:

- Disseminate wake research information and advocate for an environmentally sound high-speed ferry vessel; the Wake and Environment Council has been formed to support this objective.
- Support the development of robust passenger only service to enhance the quality of life and economic well being of Kitsap County; the Passenger Only Ferry Program Council will leads the organization's efforts to accomplish this objective.
- Oversee development and operation of the Bremerton Transportation Center and explore opportunities for future development and shared operation of similar facilities at other Puget Sound ports. The Bremerton Transportation Center Management Council will expand its focus to encompass these objectives.

Please contact me at (253) 661-7010 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Carla Leigh Sawyer

Board Coordinator

Marine Transportation Association of Kitsap