

## Will Local Jobs Sail in With the America's Cup?



SAN FRANCISCO—San Franciscans may not be first in line for thousands of jobs created in the build-up to the 34th America's Cup regatta over next two years, contrary to the city's new local hiring law.

The local hiring ordinance, which took effect in March, clearly applies to city-funded public works, but it's murkier on how it applies to development projects funded through public-private partnerships, such as America's Cup, city officials said.

"It is not [clear-cut]," said Michael Martin, America's Cup project director with the Office of Workforce and Economic Development (OWED). "Under the host venue agreement, the Event Authority is charged with [coming up with] a workforce development plan targeted for later this fall. We're working with them to put together a plan that makes sense."

The local hiring law requires 20 percent of project hours to be performed by city residents in the first year, growing to 50 percent of project hours in seven years.

"If we were constructing a city building that's city funded on city land, [local hiring] clearly applies," said Adam Van de Water, America's Cup assistant project director with OWED, adding that America's Cup development involves "temporary" and "private" facilities. "We need to get information on the details of the ordinance to see what applies."

Van de Water said his agency is hammering out those details in a Workforce Development Plan, part of a multi-agency, citywide planning process ahead of the sailing competition.

The city is expected to finalize a state-mandated Environmental Impact Report in the fall, which then needs to be certified by the Board of Supervisors, before the project can sail forward.

"It's a goal of the America's Cup [Event] Authority and the city to locally hire whenever possible, but we need to analyze the details of the legislation to see when it is a requirement and when it is a goal," Van de Water said.

The sailing regatta is expected to transform the city's northern waterfront -- including the construction of a new cruise terminal -- and pump \$1 billion into the local economy.

According to an analysis by Beacon Economics, the event is expected to generate more than 8,000 jobs.

"The community should have access to the full four corners of how the work is being financed and involvement in the decision-making," said Joshua Arce, executive director of Brightline Defense Project, a public policy advocacy nonprofit based in San Francisco.

