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Harbor Views

Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Seeks to Sustainably Farm Mussels off Ventura Coast

The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE), a collaborative group seeking to sustainably farm mussels in the ocean off the Ventura coast, is moving this exciting new plan forward thanks to a \$300,000 matching grant to the Ventura Port District from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



The Ventura Port District, as a VSE member, is working this year to obtain over a dozen permits needed to cultivate mussels in the Santa Barbara Channel near Ventura.

The state is encouraging domestic aquaculture production to promote economic opportunities and provide a sustainable source of domestic seafood as the global demand for seafood rises. The mussel effort would also help local commercial fishermen diversify – an important point considering that local squid catches are down by more than half compared to five years ago.

“This aquaculture effort will bolster commercial fishing activity in the harbor and stimulate the local economy. Once in production, the mussel will be offloaded in the Ventura Harbor,” said Ventura Port District General Manager Oscar Peña.

“We want Ventura Harbor to diversify to assure that we remain a vibrant commercial fishing port,” added Everard Ashworth, a principal with Ashworth Leininger Group (a VSE partner) and chair of the Ventura Port District Board.

VSE partner Doug Bush, the general manager of The Cultured Abalone Farm in Goleta, noted, “There simply is no reason for California to consume imported shellfish when we can enjoy it fresh and locally produced, and be confident that it is grown using sustainable and responsible practices.”

Coastal Marine Biolabs, a nonprofit, research-based science education organization with facilities at Ventura Harbor, is leading a public outreach campaign to inform commercial fishermen, Ventura residents and the public about the project's benefits and impacts. Other VSE partners who are giving thousands of volunteer hours to the project

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Port District Welcomes New Commission Chair & Vice Chair

Everard Ashworth (right) has taken the helm as the chairman of the Port District Board of Commissioners, with Brian Brennan serving as Vice Chair.

Ashworth is a principal with Ashworth Leininger Group, a consulting and engineering firm. A Ventura resident for over 25 years and an avid boater, Ashworth is a member of the Ventura Sail and Power Squadron and the Ventura Yacht Club. Brennan was a Ventura city councilman from 1998-2013 and mayor from 2003-2005. A professional restaurateur and an avid surfer and sailor, Brennan helped to found the Ventura County chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. He served on the California Coastal Commission and is the executive director of BEACON, which advocates for adaptive living shorelines and coastal resiliency.

The Port District Board holds public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m.



Beautification Project Underway at Ventura Harbor Village



The Ventura Port District is proud to announce the launch of the third phase of its Harbor Village Beautification Project. This project will provide attractive and pedestrian-friendly improvements by mid-summer. **All businesses at Harbor Village will remain open during construction.**

The large entry area to Ventura Harbor Village is being transformed into a people-friendly pedestrian area with new seating, new planter areas with palm trees, and artwork, including a map of the Channel Islands inlaid as decorative paving. Other improvements include new colored and decorative paving, decorative stairs, curved walls, entry signs, public art, planter areas, palm trees, seating areas, bistro tables and a handicapped-accessible ramp.



Enjoy the Ventura Harbor Seaside Lifestyle



Guided Sea Kayak Tours at Santa Cruz Island

Beginning March 1

The Santa Barbara Adventure Company offers guided sea kayak and snorkel tours at Scorpion Anchorage on

Santa Cruz Island. Scorpion Anchorage is in the Channel Islands National Park and boasts some of the most beautiful sea caves in the world. Visitors can sail to the island with Islands Packers.

Blue & Humpback Whale Watching

April through September

Whale-watching cruises with Island Packers offer a chance to see the whales as they travel—plus enjoy a day on the ocean and great views of the Channel Islands.

12th Annual Pirate Days Festival at Ventura Harbor Village

Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This signature Ventura Harbor Village event celebrates with professional pirate live-action shows, pirate-themed activities, treasure hunts, pirate costume contests, vendors and more. Festivalgoers of all ages wear period costumes. Pirate marketplace opens at 11 a.m. and live entertainment is from 1 to 4 p.m.



Ventura Yacht Club Juniors Sailing Camp in the Ventura Harbor

One-week sessions from Monday, June 19 - Friday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

Junior sailors ages 8-18 learn the basics of sailing, strategy, sportsmanship and safety from experienced instructors. Space is limited so sign up early.

Wet Wednesdays at Ventura Harbor Village

Wednesdays in June, July and August, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Ventura Harbor Village celebrates “hump day” with live music, shopping and dining specials.

Sounds of Summer Concert Series at Ventura Harbor Village

Sundays, June 18 through Labor Day (first weekend in September), 1-4 p.m.

Soak up the sun while listening to music ranging from jazz and soul to pop and rock to a blend of Caribbean and Reggae, on the Carousel Stage.

Ventura Shellfish Enterprise

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include: Ashworth Leininger Group, a local environmental consulting firm; RWP Dredging Management, the Port District's dredging consultant; and California Sea Grant, a university-based program funded by NOAA and located at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Teaming with VSE are experts from federal and state agencies, universities and commercial shellfish operations.

SAVE THE DATES: Public workshops on the VSE effort featuring local speakers and national experts are scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. on May 11, June 1 and June 15 at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor Resort conference facilities. Learn more and register for a workshop at www.venturashellfishenterprise.com.

Connect With Us! #venturaharbor



VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

www.VenturaHarborVillage.com



Ventura Port District

www.venturaharbor.com

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Board of Port Commissioners

- Everard Ashworth, *Chairman* (appointed: 6-16-14/expires: 6-30-18)
- Brian Brennan, *Vice Chairman* (appointed: 8-1-16/expires: 6-30-20)
- Jim Friedman, *Commissioner* (appointed: 8-6-12/expires: 6-30-17)
- Bruce Smith, *Commissioner* (appointed: 7-15-13/expires: 6-30-17)
- Nikos Valance, *Commissioner* (appointed: 7-27-15/expires: 6-30-19)