



Andria's Seafood Specialties
1449 Spinnaker Dr A
Ventura, CA 93001

September 2, 2026

Ventura Port District Board of Port Commissioners
1603 Anchors Way Drive
Ventura, CA 93001

Chair Blumenberg, Port Commissioners, District Counsel, and Port District Staff,

Good evening, and thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight on the Commercial Fish Modernization Project and its impact on Andria's Seafood.

My name is Brian Bargiel, and I'm the CEO of Andria's Seafood.

Let me begin by saying that I really appreciate the continued openness and collaborative attitude that Staff have shown throughout the development of this project.

They have done a good job asking for our input and turning it into positive action.

And I want to say clearly at the outset that I am here tonight in support of the actions before you. I am asking you to approve Item 2.

Because if the project is completed as it has been laid out, everyone wins. Andria's customers get closer restrooms. Andria's employees get improved back of house conditions. Our neighboring squid processors get the facilities they need. Village visitors get cosmetic improvements. The Port of Hueneme gets to unload more cargo. And the Ventura Port District gets increased revenue from squid unloading and more federal support for dredging the harbor.

If we can all agree that the end result benefits everyone, I think we might also agree that getting there from here is the challenging part.

On July 17, 2024, I stood here before you and asked you to, "please not let this construction project put us out of business."

Now, two years later, I'm here making the same plea.

Because despite all of the money and hearings and drawings and meetings, I still think that there's a good chance that this project will put Andria's Seafood out of business.

One thing that has changed in the last two years is that Staff has now acknowledged in writing something that we have understood for some time. On page 139 of the packet distributed for this evening's meeting, it reads, "An anticipated impact of the Project will be business interruption to Andria's Seafood."

So now we can talk about it plainly.

The actions awaiting your approval tonight, especially those approving expenditures for architecture, construction scheduling, and civil engineering in the amount of \$127,500 will help all of us to get more clarity on just how long Staff's proposed business interruption might last, and what all of us can do to make the interruption as short as possible.

That's why I'm asking you to approve them.

And as we get closer to figuring out what is actually going to happen, it's important for me to tell you a few things.

First, please do not mistake our cooperation for consent.

Our cooperation to date is not consent. No proposal affecting our premises has been presented to us, and none has been agreed to.

Second, Andria's Seafood does not waive any of the rights afforded to us in our lease, including the right to the quiet possession of our premises.

Our lease extends through 2031, and we have rights to extend the lease ten years beyond that.

Our lease does not give the Port District the right to interrupt our business or relocate our premises.

Third, while there will be benefits to Andria's at the successful conclusion of this project, the portions of this project that affect our premises are not something we sought.

Every aspect of the project as it pertains to Andria's is an imposition on our time and resources, and negatively affects our current and future revenue.

And the uncertainty around the contemplated "business interruption" has deeply affected the morale and security of our employees and their families, some of whom have worked for us for over thirty years.

And finally, because this project is being imposed on us, our expectation is that the Ventura Port District will bear all costs associated with its implementation - planning, permitting, construction, rentals, new equipment, and any other measures necessary to ensure that the proposed business interruption does not permanently close our doors.

As the project moves forward, please keep these potential costs in mind, particularly since the materials before you show the total project cost already approaching the total grant amount, and the possibility that costs could exceed what the grant covers.

I am asking you to treat the costs of keeping Andria's open as project costs, not as a contingency to be cut if the budget tightens.

Now, even though I've gotten a little heavy here tonight, please do not mistake the preservation of our rights and the assertion of our positions as an unwillingness to cooperate.

I do believe that all parties are rowing in the same direction, and I also believe that together we can find a way forward that reasonably satisfies everyone's needs.

Andria's Seafood will continue to cooperate in good faith with Port District staff, consultants, and contractors at every available opportunity.

We are committed to working with you to achieve the vision that the Project lays out for the Ventura Harbor Village.

And so I'd ask two specific things of you tonight, alongside your approval of this agenda item:

One: that the interim operations plan you're funding be developed with Andria's at the table, not presented to us when it's finished.

A plan that looks workable on paper may not be workable from a business perspective. We need to work together to find a solution that works for all parties involved.

Two: that the phasing schedule comes back to this board in public session before construction goes out to bid, so you can see for yourselves how long the contemplated closure might last.

In closing, Mr. Pendleton said at one of our meetings that the Village needs Andria's Seafood to be open when this project is complete.

I believe him. And I would go one step further, and say that all of Ventura needs Andria's Seafood to be open when this project is complete.

You have a large part to play in ensuring that Andria's continues to serve the generations of Ventura County residents who come to us for great food at a good price.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Bargiel", written in a cursive style.

Brian Bargiel, CEO, Andria's Seafood